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SUNDAY MAGAZINE

What booming region
of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon has to offer beyond industrial estates and golf courses
SUNDAY BIZ / B2-3

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCE PEARL

THE DRESSES OF TIME: To celebrate Heritage Festival month in May, postage stamps were launched together with a photo exhibit of 22 bridges built in the early 1900s such as the Puente de Bath in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

Lanao: Not perfect, but ...

Most trusted commissioner up against rotten system

By Nikko Dizon

ELECTION COMMISSIONER RENE Sarmiento, the chief supervisor of yesterday's special elections in 13 towns in Lanao del Sur, enjoys the trust and support of civil society election watchdog groups, and even the opposition.

They say Sarmiento's presence in the province, where the 13 towns will account for some 100,000 votes deemed crucial to tilting the last elected of the senatorial Top 12, could imbue the conduct and results of the special elections some credibility.

But in the same breath, they point out that he is up against a system that will challenge even good men with the best intentions.

For the special polls, Sarmiento not only organized a new team of election officers from provinces outside Lanao del Sur, including a previous stint in Ameto, but also brought with him officers from the Commission on Elections' main office in Manila.

Escorted by soldiers, the team went
HOST TRUSTED / A-9

This woman goes where men fear to tread

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THIS OUTSPOKEN MUSLIM GOES TO places where most fear to travel.

Tomorrow, this lively, 39-year-old Jocilyn de Mesa, senior lawyer at the Commission on Elections, is bound for another "adventure trip" that has sent her male colleagues fleeing for their lives.

De Mesa will be sitting as the new chair of the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) in violence-ridden Shariff Saliamanan, the country's fifth province and the 60th in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The 149,277 votes cast in the province last May 14 could be crucial in the hotly contested race for the last few slots in the senatorial elections.

But on making clearly loud incursion into political clans in the ARMM district, had kept re-election supervisor, who was afraid for his life, from gathering the votes.

The assignment also offered to a
TRIUMPHANT / A-12

'Soldiers, watchdogs, Comelec action team heroes'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Inquirer Mindanao

MARAWI CITY—THE CONDUCT OF THE SPECIAL ELECtions in 10 of 13 towns in Lanao del Sur was not perfect but was "generally peaceful," Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said last night.

He said what had made the difference was the heavy military deployment, the cooperation of poll-watching groups who were their top leaders on the ground—and the "unprecedented" use of civil action officers.

He said these improved officers were among the "heroes" of the special polls.

But a failure of elections area again also played in the rotten town of Buing, Sra. Hamegaya in Piadda, and most late again in Lumba-Bayabao, affecting close to 13,000 voters.

But Sarmiento said problems had been ironed out and elections in those areas would be conducted this morning.

"We did not perform it. But we did our best," he said, adding that he was giving both Buing Lanao a grade of "7.5 out of 10."

Not even the 100 hundred volunteers could make the special elections truly peaceful.

"We can make an election honest and credible, but to make it peaceful is difficult," Sandoval chair in Lanao del Sur Hadji Abdullah Dalgalg said as the polling premieres were about to close.

Hundred national chair Edward Go agreed with Dalgalg's view.

"All the volunteers tried to keep the elections credible, but still there were extraordinary things... Still, I am most pleased," Go said.

At least one hundred volunteers guarded the conduct of the special elections in 166 precincts.

Go said there were also observers from Manila and Cagayan de Oro who
LAUNCH / A-10

"NOT CONTAGIOUS." In Ed Peralta says of his skin disease that first appeared in 2003.

Laughter the best medicine for 'Michael Jackson Disease'

By Tonnie Orejas
Inquirer General Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PROclaimed Pampanga Governor Ye Eddie Panlilio said the white spots on his face, hands and feet should not be a cause for worry.

Vitiligo, or the partial loss of pigment, was how his doctors called his skin disorder. It's also called the "Michael Jackson Disease." *(See Page A-23 , 1)*

"It is not contagious, so you can...[illegible] need not fear coming near me or shaking my hands," said the 56-year-old Panlilio prior to his Thursday

Vitiligo is not a life-threatening ailment, according to Panlilio, and is not serious enough to stop him from doing his duties as a public official until June 29/30, his last term prior to his elected governor in Pampanga in 30 years, aspiring experts showed.

"It has not affected my body's vital organs," he said.

The white spots first appeared on his forehead in 2003 when he was in his fourth year of assignment at the St. James Parish in Iloilo, Congress.

"The doctors said it could be hereditary or caused by a stress from the environment or due to tension," Panlilio said.
LAUGHTER / A-11

ELEKSYON 2007
COMELEC

1	LEGARDA, Loren	[illegible]
2	ESCUDERO, Francis	[illegible]
3	VILLAR, Manuel	[illegible]
4	LACSON, Panfilo	[illegible]
5	PANGILINAN, Francis	[illegible]
6	AQUINO, Benigno	[illegible]
7	ANGARA, Edgardo	[illegible]
8	ABBOYD, John	[illegible]
9	DAYUNDO, Alan	[illegible]
10	HONASAN, Gregorio	[illegible]
11	TRILLANES, Antonio	[illegible]
12	ZUBIRI, Miguel	[illegible]
13	REVILLA, Ralph	[illegible]
14	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	[illegible]
15	BENGSON, Michael	[illegible]
16	PUDAR, Prospero	[illegible]
17	ROCO, Sonia	[illegible]
18	MONTANO, Omar	[illegible]
19	SOTTO, Vicente	[illegible]
20	OSMEÑA, John	[illegible]

Continued on page A-2

How to get HS diploma Pacman way

By Dixie Mesa

THIS MONTH AND ALL THROUGHOUT June, adults as well as out-of-school youth over the age of 16 will be doing a Manny Pacquiao. They will enroll in the Department of Education's alternative Learning System (ALS) so that they can get a high school diploma.

Now for the digital twist.

The ALS program, which now uses formal and practical approaches of reaching various subjects to out-of-school youth, will be conducted using computers in four pilot centers.

Called the "eMarela Project," it is a novel play on the Filipino equivalent of "school."

As the flagship project of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), "it is envisioned to reduce the digital divide by providing ICT-enhanced educational opportunities for Filipino out-of-school youth and adults," explains eMarela project head Maria Melissa Tan.

Thanks to a $200,000-grant from the Ayer Education Foundation in Korea, four pilot sites have been established: Tacloban City, Iloilo, Isabela, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Another thrust of the eMarela staff sessions is equipped with 20 computers with pre-installed freeware and applications, a server, a printer, a digital
HOW TO GET / A-10

Money, fake and real, talk of (some) towns in Bohol

By Kit Bagayua
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—MONEY IS THE TALK of the town in some towns in Bohol, after at least P10,000 in fake bills was found deposited in four banks—and the municipalities that voted 12-One Team party were each promised P5-million reward.

The five towns will receive funding for projects, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado told different mayors yesterday, during an assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), Bohol chapter.

Aumentado said the other towns that voted 11-One Team will each receive P1,000,000 worth of projects.
MONEY / A-10

NEWS / A6
Zubiri dislodges Koko Pimentel from No. 12 spot in Comelec tallies Cebu votes on Saturday

NEWS / A4
Seiko Films 'Poster Child' gets 10-minute standing ovation at Directors Fortnight in Cannes

NEWS / A2
Mark Jimenez's wife Carol sprung by NBI, calls her rescuers heroes

SUNDAY MAGAZINE
Some studies suggest link between late working hours and increased risk of breast cancer but it's a risk the mostly female work force of call centers is prepared to take

6/42 LUZON VIS-MIN
1 7 12 13 40 42
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Second
FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Carol called rescuers 'heroes'

THIS lit-dor Silkarcom Foundation (SF) House, Las Piñas, where Carol Castañeda was rescued by NBI agents. Her husband, former Rep. Mark Jimenez, called it a kidnapping. NOEL ABAS

By Tina D. Santos

IN THE EYES OF CAROL CASTAÑEDA-JIMENEZ, the estranged wife of former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez, the agents of the National Bureau of Investigation who "rescued" her Friday night from a drug rehabilitation center in Las Piñas City are "heroes."

"She (Carol) was calling us her heroes when she saw us," said Aurel Dalampiano, chief of the NBI Special Task Force that conducted the "rescue operation."

He said Carol knew more than what he told her that he is an agent of the NBI and that they were there to save her.

Dalampiano said Carol appeared to be in a good condition "although she looked really frightened."

"But we refrained from asking her questions because although she looked okay, it was evident that she's still traumatized, posing relationship as we (the agents) to be sealed," he added.

Court order

Armed with a court order issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 69 Judge Lorifel Pahimna, directing them and the Philippine National Police to rescue Carol, NBI agents swooped down on Silkarcom Foundation shortly before 10 p.m. on Friday.

Dalampiano claimed that security guards and Dinni Crespo, one of the owners of the drug rehabilitation center and a sister of Jimenez, tried to prevent them from entering the facility.

"They wouldn't let us in because they claimed that the other patients might be disturbed," he said, adding that they were forced to use a ball ramme to destroy the padlocks of the gates and the installation of Silkarcom.

NBI agents arrested a security guard who tried to block the operation but was released ing following day.

Dalampiano said Crespo was cited to contempt Jimenez and his lawyers during the trial.

Room-to-room search

"She wants us to talk to MJ first, but I told her we just settle the issue in court, not during our operation. We just want them to implement the court order," he said.

Before they found Carol, Dalampiano said they had to conduct a room-to-room search because nobody from Silkarcom would tell them the exact room where Carol was.

"What used patients of Silkarcom stay at the rooms on the second floor, our NBI agent dashed to branch and landed a room near the administrator's office and this late on the ground floor.

"The room appeared to be well-kept, it was air-conditioned and her door was locked. But from their outside, personnel there said that it is on call or a medicine because a coffin was blocking the door," the NBI agent said. "I found her lying in bed, as if already prepared to sleep."

Apart from the NBI, Lorie Espinosa, Carol's lawyer, was also present at the time she was rescued.

Safehouse for Carol

From Las Piñas, the resulting team proceeded to Bocco Avenue in Quezon City where they dropped off Carol and Espinosa, who transferred to another vehicle that would take Dinni's safehouse.

"Carol is now under the custody of her lawyer," Dalampiano said. "I think Atty. Espinosa will have her undergone medical checkup."

Jimenez's lawyer, Severo Pedro Chavez, was reportedly planning to file kidnapping charges against the NBI agents. (See related story.)

Sought for comment, Dalampiano said: "Only Carol can file kidnapping charges against us. This is a rescue operation, as we just implemented Pasig's court order."

Dalampiano said he immediately formed a team to launch the rescue operation after Carol's lawyer received an information that there was a plan to take and hide her threat to another place.

JIMENEZ

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It's MJ's turn to cry 'kidnap'

By John M. Aurelio

NOW IT'S THE GAMP OF MARK Jimenez who is crying "kidnap."

A lawyer of the ex-Manila congressman said they plan to file kidnapping charges against agents of the National Bureau of Investigation who "rescued" Jimenez's estranged wife late Friday night from a drug rehab facility in Las Piñas City.

"It's under study. We are still studying whether to file charges of robbery (theft) damages against the NBI," Jimenez's lawyer Frank Chavez said in a phone interview.

Chavez said the NBI said on Friday "was a brazen violation of the rule of law."

To be included in the complaint are Lorna Espinosa, lawyer of Jimenez's wife; Irene Flamiamano, Jimenez's son Ugallo Crespo, and Department of Justice secretary Raul Gonzalez.

At around 9:30 p.m. on Friday night, agents of the NBI's Special Task Force raided the Silkarcom Foundation, a drug rehabilitation facility in Las Piñas City, to rescue Carol Castañeda who was forcibly taken there by unidentified men from a condominium in Makati City.

Castañeda, Jimenez's estranged second wife, has been confined in the facility since May 14.

'Illegal rescue'

The NBI, assisted by the Las Piñas City police, conducted the operation after a Pasig City family court issued the rescue orders. The Las Piñas City police provided area and peripheral security.

Chavez said it was illegal to carry out the rescue order after office hours "and in the dead of the night, when no one is looking."

He said the NBI should not have carried out the operation, as the rescue order issued by the Pasig City RTC has yet to be served.

"We have a pending motion to lift the order. We already filed our pleading and the court has yet to resolve that," he added.

The Human Rights Commission also questioned the territorial jurisdiction of the Pasig court since Silkarcom is located in Las Piñas City and not in Pasig City.

"Assuming that the Pasig court has received the issue of killing the rescue order, the raid is still unlawful and illegal because it is outside the court's territorial jurisdiction of Pasig," Chavez explained.

Hamiamano, Castañeda's half sister, had filed before Las Piñas RTC Branch 254 a petition for a writ of habeas corpus after her sister went missing more than a week ago.

But the Las Piñas court has yet to issue a resolution on the petition, which Judge Rhodora Ya Gasis turned over to the Pasig court.

'Contemptuous'

"We are still waiting for the court to either grant or deny the petition for the writ of habeas corpus. What Espinosa did was a contemptuous disregard for the court," Chavez said.

He added that they would also file contempt charges against Espinosa and Flamiamano for ignoring the Las Piñas City court.

Chavez is also studying charges of damage to property and injury to prosecute against the raiding team, who reportedly used excessive force to gain entry into Silkarcom.

"Some of the employees sustained injuries when the people of guns were pointed at their heads. Others were pushed against a wall. That's unnecessary force against people who are not fighting back," Chavez pointed out.

Chavez said the would also ask Pasig City family court Judge Amelia Fernandez to inhibit herself from the case, saying she has prejudged the case.

He added that it was the judge who suggested to Flamiamano's camp to file for a writ of habeas corpus to force Silvercorp and Jimenez to produce Castañeda.

Administration Rep. Ismael Concepcion, Chavez and "Mr. Jimenez told me, 'If they want her, they got her. They could have her.'"

The Jimenez camp is set for the counsels of Flamiamano and Espinosa, but they could not be reached. The NBI is reportedly keeping Castañeda in a safe house.

GMA extols heroism, hard work of teachers who served in polls

By Julie Ludwig Jaculbia

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO THURSDAY extolled the heroism and hard work of more than half a million public school teachers who served in the May 14 midterm elections and who will now go back to their main job with the opening of classes on June 4.

The President paid tribute to the teachers during the "Oplan Balik Eskuela" interagency command conference at the F. Ilustre Elementary School in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Ms Arroyo checked the preparations for the opening of school year 2007-2008 of the departments of education, health, defense, transportation, public works and trade and the Metro Manila Development Authority.

She was joined by Speaker Jose de Venecia, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, PBES principal Estrella Aglugub and other officials.

Ms Arroyo said the nation owed a debt of gratitude to the teachers for the heroism and sincere service they performed during the elections.

Truly heroes

"Our teachers truly are heroes...not only those who died and were hurt in the defense of the vote but also all the half a million [teachers] who served in more than 200,000 precincts around the country," Ms Arroyo said.

"Now, after several days of being sleepless and tired, our teachers can return their work for the country to prepare the schools for the opening of classes in June," Ms Arroyo said.

Ms Arroyo reiterated her order to the police to speed up the investigation and filing of charges against those responsible for the death of a teacher on duty during the elections.

Nelfa Sunaag, a teacher at the Ubang Integrated Elementary School in Tayum, Batangas, died with poll watchers Lenieta Ramos and her policeman husband in the losing mayoralty candidate involved a school at dawn on May 15 just as the teachers were finishing the counting of votes.

Police Director Antonio Sillaren informed her that charges have already been filed against the members of the Batangas Regional Special Operations Group.

At the same time, the President asked Lapus whether there were enough teachers, classrooms and books for the opening of classes next month.

Ms Arroyo said the government is hiring 16,000 new teachers to improve the student-teacher ratio in the public schools. The target is a 1:35 student-classroom ratio covering two shifts a day.

Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani reported that out of some 22.5 million students this school year, 17.4 million are elementary and high school students in the public schools.

After the command conference, the President distributed 1oC books in name of the pupils in the PBES, a pilot school with 4,750 students.

She also took up a paint brush to repaint a school desk, together with Dr Venecia and Lapus.

The Unified Interdenominational Oplan Balik Eskuela to ensure the smooth opening of classes by addressing common problems like traffic, safety of school children, and prices of school supplies. They also assessed the repair of school buildings and roads, supply of water and power to schools and problems associated with the rainy season.

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RP film gets standing ovation in Cannes

By Rubern V. Hegalan
Los Angeles Correspondent

"FOSTER CHILD," A FILM ON the issue of foster care in the Philippines, received a 10-minute standing ovation during its world premiere at the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival in France on Friday.

"We had a 10-minute standing ovation during the official screening," Bobbie Tan, producer of the film, announced via text message about the reaction to "Foster Child" after its official screening Friday evening at the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes.

"The audience was absolutely moved by 'Foster Child,'" Bobbie added.

The film's director, Guillaume "Danny" Mandoro, was likewise elated by the favorable audience reception.

"I am humbled by the audience reaction. They said the film was one of the best in the Directors' Fortnight. We had to stand up to acknowledge the cheers," Mandoro said via text message.

Sheila Lapuz, the sales agent of "Foster Child," confirmed the standing ovation received by the film in a press statement.

"There was an almost 10-minute standing ovation for the film. Director Guillaume Mandoro and actress Cherry Pie Picache stood up at least three times to acknowledge the cheers for the crowd. Both Mandoro and Picache were so moved by the reaction that they cried," the statement said.

Tan of Strike Films claimed that the film's screening held audience on Friday morning, was a success as well. "Many viewers told us that 'Foster Child' is a moving film. They were all praises for Cherry Pie (Picache)," he said.

Cherry Pie stars in the film along with Eugene Domingo, Jiro Manio, Alwyn Uytingco, Dan Alvarez and Kier Legaspi.

"Foster Child" tells the story of Dahlia (Picache), a Pasig city jeepney driver who is hired as a foster mother by a social worker (Domingo). Its ability to provide temporary home and care to abandoned babies pending their formal adoption.

According to Cannes's Fortnight artistic director Olivier Pere, "Foster Child" is the second film to get a good reaction from the audience.

Accuser becomes accused: Rival says 'Digs' cheated

CORINAL CITY—THE IN-spirations of ousted President Joseph Estrada was among those who called on the Commission on Elections to look into the supposed fraud in Maguindanao, but many for a living accused of committing a similar irregularity in Sharif Kabunsuan province.

Former congressman Didagen Dilangalen says he is winning in the congressional race in the district covering the town of Datu Odin Sinsuat (DOS), but his opponent, administration candidate Rid Sandra Sinsuat Sema, refuses to believe it.

"Before asking the Comelec to investigate alleged election irregularities in Maguindanao, he should first clear his own backyard of election filth," said Sema, who lost to Dilangalen's wife, Bai Sendig, in the 2004 congressional race.

Sema, a member of the election committee of the Unaco Regional Commission of the Philippines, accused Dilangalen of padding his votes in some 191 precincts in DOS, and of "conditioning the people's mind" that he was leading in the tally of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

Sour grapes

But Dilangalen said that his victory in 2004 was expected, and that Sema's complaint was a mere case of sour grapes.

"I was supported by the Sinsuat [family], among other big families in the area. Cute [sister] Bernie Sinsuat, Datus's uncle, and Mayor Datu Simbra Sinsuat supported me. [Actual supported] Datus Mastura, who ran for governor against Governor Sinsuat. [How can] you expect the people of Datu to support her?" Dilangalen said.

Sema, however, said she was able to get hold of blank but copies of election returns "showing the irregularities in the IDs from 192 out of the 200 targeted precincts."

She said that with the IDs from the 12 remaining precincts yet to be canvassed, Dilangalen got a total of 20,214 votes, which she says "more than doubled the amount" he had "suddenly become: 10,418."

"Where did my rival get this blocked figure when the IDs from the 12 remaining precincts have yet to be canvassed?" she said.

Sema also assailed Dilangalen for announcing that he was ahead in the thumbs count when, she said, he was actually trailing.

"He was confirming the people's mind," she said.

Sema said her lawyers had filed a case of vote-padding against Dilangalen before the Comelec and sought a nullification of the supposed questionable votes.

"I cannot imagine losing in a race named after my grandfather," she said in reference to the late Mayor Datu Odin Sinsuat, who ruled the town for over a decade.

Countered Dilangalen: "She's desperate. People liked my performance both in Congress and in the district. She has been in and out of Datu Odin Sinsuat during the canvassing and the municipal canvassing. Why complain only now?"

Dilangalen, a lawyer, said last week that there was poll manipulation in Maguindanao, and called on the Comelec to investigate it.

He said an investigation would separate the innocent from the guilty: "It's the better side of judgment that the Comelec conduct an investigation on clear election officials and other personalities linked to the Maguindanao elections." **Charlie C. Arbison**, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Corrections

IN THE MAY 15 ISSUE, a commentary on Page A15—"Internet watchdogs"—omitted inadvertently the first name of the Los Altos Italian member who did a literary analysis of the Bambino song "Pasyalak." The mother's name is Dali Sor Arias. She did the analysis in a workshop called "Poem Reading as Writing."

* * *

In the May 23 issue, a story on Page B1 of the Business section—"Economy managers push MRT 3 bigger proposal"—misstated the maximum fare for an MRT 3 ride. The maximum fare is P15—not P12.

* * *

In the May 24 issue, a front-page story—"Inquirer net draw 1.3 million viewers on Election Day"—stated erroneously that at least 1.4 million people visited Inquirer.net and that 6.7 million page views were registered on Election Day. The site traffic refers to the entire election week—not Election Day alone.

* * *

In the May 25 issue, a story on Page A17—"RP sees more loans from Japan"—announced that Assistance Blend Meeting has a $100-million expansion project for its tablet mine in Surigao del Norte. The $100-million expansion project is for a Toyota plant. The feminine nickel mine project costs $1 billion.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Ten Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PSE Building, Ortigas Center or e-mail corrections@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your full name, address and telephone number.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Letters Editor Tina, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax them to 897-41-58/59, attn.: Mercedes Arbisonan. Her phone number is 897-8808 local 2442.

10,000 sardine jobs in peril

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment yesterday said it has learned a regional task force to assist 10,000 sardine-factory workers in the Zamboanga Peninsula who are facing displacement due to rising production costs and lower catches.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said the task force would link with private companies to set to place a pilot of workers armed with helping falterfolk, cannery workers and other regional service providers find alternative sources of livelihood and extra income.

The interagency task force will be under ROXI Region 9, and will be joined by the Industrial Group of Companies in Zamboanga City Southern Philippines Deep Sea Corp., labor unions and the city government.

The sardine industry is worth P10 billion nationally. It is concentrated in Zamboanga City, which is dubbed the "Sardine Capital of the Philippines."

A study conducted by the United States Agency for International Development, through its Growth Equity for Mindanao program, said that despite the relatively easy-to-farm process, the industry was still hit by crisis due to overfishing in the Sulu Sea and high operation costs.

The study said wages and fuel increases severely reduced the profits of Sulcafish since about 80 percent of their catch is sold in the eight major locals nationwide. The industry's fishing fleet consists of about 100 motorvessels.

WHIZ KID: Mikaela Irene Padolig, who graduated summa cum laude from UP at 16, reads to kids at the Inquirer's second Read-Along session on Saturday at the PDI main office on Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. KEVIN ECTOR

Zubiri dislodges Pimentel as Cebu votes are tallied

By Tarra Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

AS THE OFFICIAL CANVASSing of votes for senators-elect yesterday for a weekend break, Senator Opposition candidates continued to dominate the Magic 12 list fueled by massive support in Cebu as Juan Miguel Zubiri leaped into the winning circle.

With 83 percent of the certification of canvass tabulated as of 6 p.m., Zubiri eight-slotted 7-3-2 in favor of GO officer EO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III was eased out of the 12th spot by TU's Miguel Zubiri as votes from Cebu City and Cebu province, switch-pitted absentees of Jim Sullivella, were included in yesterday's tally.

Still on the lead was Loren Legarda (LG), followed by Panfilo "Ping" Lacson (KNP), Manuel Villar (LG) and Franklin Lincoln (GO). Other GO candidates in the Magic 12 were Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (Ind), alias Peter Cayetano (NP) and Juan Ponce Enrile (Ind).

Trailing with Cebu, where more than 1.3 million voters turned more TU candidates in the polls, also final Seigfredo Angara and Juker Arroyo in their slots at seventh and ninth, respectively.

Independent candidates Francis Pangilinan (UNI) and Gregorio Honasan (Ind) completed the winning circle.

Pimentel slipped in Zubiri's former slot at No. 14 after losing by almost 81,000 votes to the Bukidnon representative. Cebu's votes in the top 12 was a first since he placed 10th in the Commission on Elections count on May 21.

Voters in Cebu and Cebu City made it 7-1-1 in favor of TU, but Pangilinan was No. 1.

The Cebu canvass placed Arroyo in second and Angara in fourth, while Perspectives Pichay, Mike Defensor, Ralph Recto and Cesar Montano were third, fifth, eighth and 12th, respectively.

Nicanor Magsaysay was 14th, John Osmeña, TU's Joseph Santiago and Soc Gen Chavit Singson were further behind at 17th and 18th. Barbers Jinggoy were Tessie Aquino-Oreta at No. 21 and Jamalul Kiram was 24th.

Legarda and Enrile, were ninth and 10th for Cebu.

Aside from Cebu province and Cebu City, the Comelec site tallied the certificates of canvass from Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Pasay City and Zamboanga City, bringing the total number of contested COCs to 76 provinces and 11 cities in Metro Manila, or 84 percent of the total 203 COCs.

Canvassing would resume on Monday.

As this developed, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections looks all set to breach its record in the 2004 presidential elections in terms of provinces covered by its quick count with less than two weeks after the election.

Namfrel has tabulated and presented election returns from 176, 382 precincts, or 78.47 percent of the total 224,748 precincts scheduled for country as of Saturday morning, a few percentage points shy of its 2004 record of 81 percent.

Yesterday, only fifty from 48,000 precincts equivalent to 8.5 to 9 million votes were left to be counted. With reports from TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Balana

"ELEKSYON 2007"
COMELEC

29	MIGUEL Zubiri	1,242,435
28	VILLAR, Sen.	1,241,918
27	ENRILE, Juan	1,111,135
26	SINGSON, Luis	1,092,519
25	GOMEZ, Richard	1,086,678
24	OSMEÑA, Joseph	1,080,918
23	CHAVIT, Singson	974,816
22	MAGTUBO, Marilo	956,289
21	PANGILINAN, Francis	955,258
20	CAYETANO, Pauline	874,955
19	OSMEÑA, Sonia	858,874
18	LEGARDA, Loren	858,874
17	MARCOS, Victor	858,874
16	LUCAS, Jo Antonio	858,874
15	GARCIA, Pete	858,874
14	GARCIA, Ricardo	858,874
13	MARCOS, Bongbong	858,874

16-year-old 'summa' tells of love affair with reading

LOVE FOR READING DISPLAYS A large part of Mikaela Irene Padolig's achievements as the first 16-year-old summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines Diliman. That is why she had to confess about being the guest storyteller for the second session of the Inquirer Read-Along.

Hoping to teach children to love reading, the Inquirer Read-Along program gathers children aged 7 to 13 for a story-reading session with celebrities and human-role models for the youth.

"My mother taught me reading by putting flash cards in different parts of the house," Padolig said. "So I ran and asked years old, I was able to read in Filipino and at three, I started reading in English," she added.

Padolig started her session with "I Love Reading," a personal presentation of how she developed her reading habits with a rundown of the books she has read.

"I started with 'Planting Pakatan,' 'Strollying Isnid,' Mickey Mouse books and the series of 'The Baby Sitter's Club and Nancy Drew," she revealed. She also said she loved Gabriela Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude" and is now eager to finish J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

She read "Irma Duiva' 'Hope for the Flowers" to an enthralled audience of kids and parents at the Inquirer Multi-Purpose Room.

Aside from Padolig, Charlyn Dosa, the vice president of Alkapop Storytellers Phils., a volunteer group also promoting reading among kids, told the story "The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig," the opposite version of a well-known fable.

A willing supporter of the Inquirer Read-Along program, the publishing house of Scholastic Inc. also gave away books to children.

"It was really enlightening," said 74-year old Victoria Solano, who brought her grandson after reading about the program in the Inquirer. "I really appreciate the program because it will encourage my grandson to read more," Solano added.

"I learned a lot and had fun!" said 10-year-old Bianca Bandi.

The next Inquirer Read-Along will be on June 16 with multi-awarded child star Jana Cenizal-en, and on June 30 with broadcast journalist Christine Bersola. The sessions will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Interested participants may contact Hazel Caparas at Gabe Bellran at 897-8808, local 3259. Slots are on a first-come, first-served basis. (reporter: Dr. Guzman, Inquirer Research)

PDI SAYS THANKS: Nimo Generalao, PDI Research Department head presents a gift to guest storyteller Padolig after the Inquirer's Read-Along session. The gift is the framed Page 1 story of her core achievement. KEVIN ECTOR

Atong Ang feels lost with new freedom

By Julie M. Aurelio

SIX YEARS AFTER FLEEING THE COUNTRY and after six months in jail here, Charlie "Atong" Ang, the controversial gambling crony of deposed president Joseph Estrada, said he found the sight of Manila's roads and streets a bit "alien" to him.

"Medyo nagulat ako sa dami. Hindi ko na maalala ang mga bahay. Malalaki ako, 11 lang ako. Hindi ko

FILIPINO DIASPORA IS HURTING ASW HARLEM

May 26, 2007, MANILA – Even the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration admits that the growing number of Filipinos leaving for jobs abroad is hurting the Foundation of the family.

The immediate enforcement to work abroad is considerable, because of material gain, but someone Filipino workers must also realize the cost of leaving the family," POEA administrator Rosalinda Baldoz said in an interview.

Baldoz said the erratic values formation and preservation included in the orientation seminars being conducted for Filipinos about to avail of overseas or extra Outer will consider ing the idea.

The social and moral costs of migration work should also be emphasized as our orientation programs," she added, referring to the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) and the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) administered by the POEA.

Both PEOS and PDOS stand for "family-oriented and country-focused," according to Baldoz. That is why, she said, POEA would be inviting to the seminars several migrant re-

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 27, 2007
Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

All were filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. And suddenly out of the sky came a sound like a strong rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared tongues as of fire which parted and came to rest upon each one of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Staying in Jerusalem were religious Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered, full of confusion because each Israel them speaking in his own language. Full of amazement and wonder, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that we hear them in our own native language? Here are Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya by Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and Jewish converts, Cretans and Arabians; and all of us hear them proclaiming in our own language the deeds of God."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your creatures.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my meditation please him;
I find my joy in the Lord.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

The Spirit is life and holiness.

No Jesus' wedding according to the flesh cannot please God.

Yet your existence is not in the flesh but in the spirit, because the Spirit of God is within you. If you did not have the Spirit of Christ, you would not belong to him. But Christ is within you, though the body is doomed by death as a consequence of sin, the spirit is life and holiness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is within you, the one raised Jesus Christ from among the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies. Jesus, by and in it through his Spirit who dwells within you.

Then, brothers, let us leave the flesh and no longer live according to it. If not, we will die. Rather, walking in the Spirit, let us put to death the body's deeds so that we may live.

All those who walk in the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. Those, are never true: you did not receive a spirit of slavery but the Spirit of adoption you now call Abba (which means Father)" the Spirit assures our spirit that we are sons and daughters of God. If we are children, we are heirs, too. Only will be the inheritance of God and we will share it with Christ, for if we now suffer with him, we will also share glory with him.

Gospel: John 14:15-16, 23b-26

The Father will teach you and remind you.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. It anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make a room in his home. But if anyone does not love me, he will not keep my words. And these words that you hear are not mine, but the Father's who sent me.

"I told you all this while I was still with you. From now on, the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Commentary:

The Spirit comes upon all those gathered and causing us to be clothed with power from on high and of might to empower the Spirit to begin tongues, proclaiming boldly the mighty acts from them, each speaks in their own language what God has done in Jesus. The Spirit has been given to us, individually to each believer, the inner principle in Church together. Together and the divisions once made between all of us. We all call God "Father," in the power of the Spirit, and we are all gifted. These gifts are for the construction of the Church, and the more good they are and more in the Spirit by which we live.

The Spirit is Peace, the lesson of the desert God breathed into us, poured out upon us, sending us out into the world, in the Father and Jesus to preach forgiveness and to build these wounds and relations (unless) bound to mean evil and to live under the power of the age of the cross. The Spirit draws us into the Trinity with Jesus to the glory of the Father. We can spend the rest of our lives prayerfully seeking to understand it in mystery.

Oil companies raise gasoline, LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL COMPANIES YESTERDAY raised fuel prices by 50 centavos a liter and liquefied petroleum gas prices by 88 centavos a kilogram, citing higher oil prices in the world market.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Flying V narrowed the pump price of gasoline, diesel, kerosene and LPG at 12:01 a.m. yesterday. Petron Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. followed suit at 6 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. raised prices at 12:01 a.m. today, followed by Eastern Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m.

Seoul Philippines Inc. will increase fuel prices by this same level at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude rose to an average of $64.41 a barrel in the first 24 days of May from the April average of $61.97 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products ranged to an average of $68.58 a barrel in the May 1-24 period, from only $63.64 a barrel in April.

The 48-hour high price of P52.10 a liter for RON95-rated unleaded gasoline was recorded just last May 19.

MOPS-based diesel pumped to an average price of $65.30 a barrel as of May 24, from the April average of $62.11 a barrel.

Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies sources, for president Gloria Ma cool recession could expect more fuel price increases in the coming weeks.

The strengthening of the peso, he said, was not enough to prevent local pump prices from going up, as world oil prices continue to rise.

The last week of May would be a crucial period, he said, since this would signal the onset of the summer driving season in the United States.

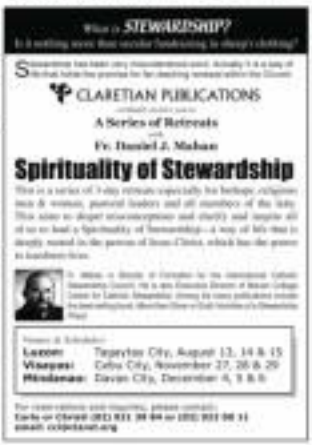
Tiu Lakson for gasoline, I think consumers should expect further adjustment because of the increased refinery operations in the U.S., Not to mention that the inventory of gasoline servicing the first-row storages in the U.S." he said.

The latest fuel price hike was the seventh for gasoline for a total of 99 a liter, and the sixth for both diesel and kerosene for a total of P5.4 a liter.

Since the start of the year, pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene have also been reduced by a total of P1.30 a liter.

LPG prices have risen three times this year for a total of P2.24 a kilo, but have also gone down four times for a total of P2.24 a kilo.

The price hike brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P47.71 and P48.71 a liter, diesel prices to between P32.27 and P33.01 a liter, kerosene prices to P36.40 and P40.75 a liter, and LPG prices to between P46.12 and P146.10 per 11-kilogram cylinder.



MEMORIAL DAY
Philippine and American flags adorn the crosses at the Manila American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio (a house war veterans on Memorial Day. American Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Armed Forces chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon visited the cemeteries today.

Row among PNP brass imperils Taysan probe

By Nicoli Pipa

A DEEP-SEATED PERSONAL CONFLICT among ranking officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) is threatening to derail the investigation into the May 13 burning of a public school in Taysan, Batangas.

Investigators involved in the Taysan probe revealed the personal conflict between Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief Director Edgardo Acosta and Region 4-A police commander Chief Supt. Nicasio Rodriguez.

Acosta said he has been tasked to investigate the involvement of Rodriguez's men in the burning of the Pinagbuntukan Elementary School in Taysan, which resulted in the death of a teacher and two pollwatchers.

Both Acosta and Rodriguez are classmates at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1978.

Sources, who requested anonymity, said Acosta is intent on "getting to the bottom of the case no matter who is charged in court, whether civilian or police officer."

The conflict between the two, sources said, started when Rodriguez and Acosta were both lobbying hard for the top league 4-A post.

Iglesia lobby

Acosta was all set to assume the position as Region 4-A police chief with the assumption orders already in his hands. But at the last minute, Rodriguez snatched the job away from Acosta's hands through the lobby of the Iglesia ni Cristo, of which Rodriguez is a member.

An angry Acosta had to "settle" for an assignment as head of the CIDG.

When Acosta assumed his second stint while at the CIDG, Rodriguez was said to be desirous of Acosta and wanted to lobby for the position of CIDG chief in turn. This further angered Acosta, as officers of like wards had strict seniority ranges.

Officers inside Camp Crame fear mentioning the name of Rodriguez when Acosta's around.

Even in their appearance before the media, officers are careful not to put the two together. "They might end up shooting at each other or even exchanging blows," said another officer, who asked not to be identified.

In the early hours of May 13, several fire heavily armed men attacked the public school in Taysan, painted their guns as election officials and poll watchers and set the ballot boxes on fire.

Witnesses later identified two members of the Region 4-A's Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG), Inspector Robert Medrida and SPO2 Willard Belen, as the ones who started the fire.

Pullout order

Investigators showed that a team guarding the school at the time of the attack, led by Taysan deputy chief of police Inspector Raul dela Cruz, was ordered by Taysan chief of police Chief Inspector Emilio Ramirez to pull out since RSOG men were on their way.

Sources in the Region 4-A command said they are trying to determine who gave the order to Ramirez to pull out dela Cruz's men.

Medrida and Belen, as well as other members of the RSOG, were earlier spotted in the house of Taysan mayoral candidate Fernando Villena.

They have been relieved of their posts and are detained in Camp Vicente Lim, headquarters of the Calabarzon police.

The two, including some Alfa Unit, have been charged with arson and murder for the fire.

Medrida has denied the charges, saying he was 12 kilometers away from the school at the time. Villena, as well as his rival Victor Noriega, have also denied involvement in the incident.

RSOG chief Supt. James B. Hamda was also relieved of his post.

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Profiles in courage: The lawyer, the soldier

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MAGUINDANAO—THE LAWYER had a choice, the soldier didn't. But they both served willingly, without hesitation, on yesterday's special elections in Lanao del Sur for their posts. They got shot at. Commission on Elections lawyer Abdi Sanatero, 30, escaped unhurt. But Cpl. Samson Catacutan, 28, was shot by Abdullet gunned through the right eyebrow.

Gunshots opened fire on the military truck Catacutan and other soldiers were on, while escorting election workers on their way to a remote elementary school in Pandatarawan.

"Shots were coming from the mountains, in front of us and to our right, left; would not say anybody. We just saw small flashes from their guns," Catacutan told the Inquirer.

The attack happened at 6 a.m. yesterday. The victory was still seven kilometers away from Datu Blumentritt School.

Catacutan's unit is based in Sultan Kudarat. But after the Comelec contracted troops to safeguard the special elections, he found himself sent to Lanao del Sur.

In the first few seconds of the attack, a bullet grazed his right eyebrow. The soldiers returned fire.

"We jumped off the truck and sought cover. They continued firing at us, but we managed to take cover," Catacutan said.

They were at a disadvantage. The gunmen were hiding in the bush behind and had apparently been waiting for the convoy to pass.

Catacutan and his fellow soldiers traded shots with the gunmen, while the teachers and other soldiers remained inside the vehicle carrying the ballot boxes, waiting to abandon the election watchdog.

The encounter ended with the gunmen retreating when they saw the soldiers had already taken defensive positions. But they left behind enough to again postpone the elections in barangay Inguac, Barong, Ibadan, Ilyan and Buntayan.

"This is my duty. My have to protect the ballot," Catacutan said, his wound covered with a piece of gauze.

He was brought by Comelec officials to the Amai Pak Pak Medical Center in Marawi City six hours after his wife reminded. He was limping, having suffered a bad fall when he jumped off the truck during the attack.

Walking alone

Sanatero moved as election officers in Malabang, Balindong, on May 14. "It was very peaceful there," she said.

"I could just walk alone there and nothing would happen to me," she told the Inquirer.

Lanao del Sur was a different world. The threat of violence was very much present.

When she was asked to be the special action officer for the special elections in Lanao town, where the mayoral race is hotly contested, Sanatero did not hesitate.

"I was excited about the experience," she said, recalling how her colleagues at the Comelec would exchange stories about serving in violence-marred elections.

"I was a tomi. You are not a full-fledged election officer if you have not experienced this," she said, speaking in Filipino.

She now feels fulfilled after her baptism of fire. She had to duck for cover along with her staff members when gunmen opened fire on the Rapid Town Hall yesterday afternoon, where they were waiting for the ballot boxes from the outing precincts.

The worst half hour at the foot of a mountain. The shots came from higher ground, the ballots fell on the roof in intervals of a few seconds. According to soldiers and policemen, the gunmen used high-powered guns: M-203, M14 and other rifles.

"Our police and military escorts were lying down, so we also ducked for cover. I was scared. My husband was outside," Sanatero recalled.

Her husband, a policeman, was in the reserve unit when the gunfight rang. He tried to seek the vehicle many, but one of the guns got stuck in the mud. He, too, got scared.

"It is just part of her work," he said, when asked why he allowed his wife to work in a province where election-related violence had become ordinary.

The attack was not enough to deter Sanatero away. "The voting was completed. I will never allow a failure of election," she said.

She refused less difficult it was merely to complete the roster of the board of election inspectors. Many candidates protested the designation of certain members. There were even brawls in the morning.

"I did not want all my effort to be wasted. We worked hard for this," she said.

She did not tell her parents, however, that she had been assigned to Lanao. She has two young children.

Nameless feels lucky to have her five staff members with her, who could have easily refused to be assigned from Bukidnon to Lanao del Sur, but instead chose to stay with her.

She said she was willing to serve again. She said she would remember not only the scary experience, but also the breathtaking views of the lush forest she had seen.

WHEN BULLETS AND BALLOTS GO HAND IN HAND: Heavily armed soldiers escort teachers carrying ballot boxes on their way to the Maisilum Central Elementary School in a province in the town of Linuk Maisilum. After the voting, the ballot boxes will be brought to the provincial capitol in Marawi City for consolidated canvassing. Boy Cruz/INQ

UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE GUN: The long arm of a soldier, who's guarding the ballot boxes inside the Maisilum Central Elementary School during yesterday's special election in Lanao del Sur, casts a sinister shadow on a list of registered voters. Boy Cruz/INQ

Most trusted commissioner up against rotten system

From page A1

around the 13 towns yesterday, stabbing witnesses about the secrets to an apparent attempt to cause disenfranchisement.

Special people

"Special people for the special election" was how Sanatero described the reasons the rest of the special polls. He said its members were among the best in the Comelec.

Sanatero's appointment last year to the poll body was endorsed by former Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on electoral reforms.

Limited Opposition Lawyer Gino Bellaroso described Sanatero as "very helpful in supervising" the special elections.

But Rep. Sunny Escamps of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna posed the irresistible question: "Can he beat the question?"

All alone

According to Guiapla, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER), Sanatero's credibility is "very high" among civil society groups.

Guiapla, however, raised one problem that Sanatero, his fellow founder of IPER and a former deputy presidential adviser on the peace process, was facing.

"She is all alone," he said.

"There is no existing core of a regular adviser where she hobbits all problems in the conduct of the elections. You cannot turn around the whole situation in a few months, or even a few years," Guiapla told the Inquirer.

Sanatero after the Comelec solicited the special elections in Lanao del Sur.

While Sanatero "did well" in immediately declaring a ballot of elections in the 13 towns of Lanao del Sur, Guiapla said, eminently "played into the hands" of those who could have designed it, Guiapla said, adding:

"She wouldn't have done otherwise."

Guiapla said leaving special elections in Lanao del Sur was exactly what political operators wanted to happen.

"It precisely puts the whole province in a position to determine the best shots in the circumstance. Everybody is dangerous of falling out of the Magic 12 will be there," he added.

Supervisors of ARMM

A noticeable of the common electoral irregularities during a month before the May 14 elections resulted in frustrations taking over supervision of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Days after the midterm elections, Sanatero found himself having to deal with countless allegations of fraud in the ARMM provinces.

Aside from taking charge of the Lanao del Sur special elections, Sanatero was also given a month before the May 14 elections resulted in frustrations taking over supervision of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao from Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

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Deep concern

Sanatero stayed all day yesterday at the monitoring center set up at the guest house of the Mindanao State University-Gym in Marawi City.

He flew to Lanao del Sur on Thursday, "to show our people that the commission is very concerned [about] and interested in the conduct of [the special elections]."

Sanatero knows the ARMM's notoriety as far as elections are concerned.

It is something he wants to change, and to the process simplify the determining status of the Comelec, Peoples Cavaliers, the man behind the "Hello Garci" scandal, who is in charge of the ARMM during his term as election commissioner.

"This exercise is very important to the Comelec. We are hopeful we can show many lessons here for our future elections," Sanatero said. With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr. in Marawi City

Lanao: Not perfect, but ...

From page A1

travelled to the Islamic City for the midterm elections.

Scores of volunteers from the PPCRV backed up the Namfrel in the vote-count canvass to be held at the gymnasium near the provincial capitol.

But as of 7 p.m. last night the canvass has yet to begin.

Sanatero said no election officers had to travel by boat from Bayang to transport the ballot boxes to Marawi, where accompanied by a contingent of armed last night at the Mindanao Central Elementary School, the Maisilum National High School, and the People's Freedom Park.

Soldiers have been heavily deployed to those canvassing areas.

Of the more than 5,000 soldiers now in the province, one sustained minor injuries when gunmen opened fire at the Army truck in which he was escorting teachers who were to deliver election materials to a barangay in Pandan yesterday morning.

In the afternoon, gunmen opened fire in the Kapai town hall where ballot boxes were to be delivered. No one was hurt. (See story on this page.)

Election outages also forced the Comelec to postpone the elections in nine precincts, Sarmiento said.

There were also reported cases of vote-buying and of local candidates threatening people against voting, but Sarmiento said these were "isolated cases" which the task force would look into.

OIC refused to serve

Earlier in the day, Sarmiento told Success Mindanao by phone that members of the board of election inspectors (BEIs) in Bacolod had agreed to perform their duties.

"Some politicians in Bacolod have advised the people not to cast their votes. And the BEIs have refused to serve. We have dispatched police and Comelec staff to the area," Sarmiento said.

Policemen were seen in Bacolod to replace the BEIs, but "as of 1:30 p.m., there were no election happening" in the town, he said.

Chief Insp. Nasrin Hassan, police spokesperson of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, later said the Comelec had declared another failure of election in Bacolod, which has 8,511 voters.

Hassan said that even as policemen were ready to function as BEIs, candidates had opposed the proposed clustering of precincts.

At least 12 ballot boxes containing election paraphernalia for Bacolod were brought back to the provincial capitol in Marawi, according to Bhayan Pasuan, a reporter for the ruling Lakas-CMD.

Explosions

Reyes said the Comelec had decided to hold the elections in Bacolod today, with 109 policemen serving as BEIs and several replacements.

Reinforcements are hobbling over taking place in three villages of Bacolod, Bayang and Lumbatan.

In Bacolod, residents panicked when four explosions caused by mortar fire ground zero at polling precincts were opening at around 7 a.m.

Chief Insp. Joel Estibas, 40, MSU police chief, tried to disarm play the incident by saying it was just a case of traveling.

He said no one was hurt, but a volunteer for the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas said a poll watcher was injured.

Estibas said that in Kapai, a poll officer went running when an unidentified armed group crashed into precincts.

Nevertheless, he said, votes managed to cast their ballots in Maisilum and nearby villages of Pandan.

In Malabang, balloting started at around 11 a.m.

A poll watcher for a gubernatorial candidate said that even with the reported violence, he hoped that yesterday's poll had exercise would at least erase the bile in Lanao del Sur caused by the failure of elections on May 14.

In Lumbatan-Bayabao, polling precincts opened at around 10 a.m. because of the delayed delivery of election paraphernalia.

Flying voters

Rahael Alonyo, a poll watcher for a provincial candidate in the town, said the presumed arrival of ballot boxes made it safe for them to cast their unopposed flying votes.

It was the presence of alleged flying voters in Lumbatan-Bayabao that led to the calling off of elections there on May 14.

In Lumbatan, residents pointed a warning sign that read: "Notice: We are asking our Christian brothers who are flying voters in Lumbatan to avoid trouble. Do not go to Lumbatan."

Hadji Abdullah Datalig, dean of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in Lanao del Sur, earlier warned that unless the Comelec avoided any flying voters, the integrity of the elections in the province would already be suspect.

Lucita Bangayan, 19, said it was "disheartening" to hear of Lanao del Sur as "the 'cheating capital' of the country."

New era

Sarmiento said the repeated failure of elections in the concerned areas could be attributed to an apparent "subculture of failure of elections" in the province.

But he was quick to add that the peaceful conduct of the special polls in most of the 132 towns could hopefully "usher in a new era of electronic and democratic lives."

"Prayers from our friends also helped a lot," he added.

Sarmiento said policemen would be deployed to serve as BEIs in the cities where balloting would be conducted today.

He said election officers also initiated dialogues yesterday with local officials to douse tension and resolve differences.

With reports from Ryan Rosario, Rachel Israel, Noah Macalam and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao; and Ai Zamora

DENR wants gov't policies on biodiversity reviewed

By TJ Burgonio

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EVEN REGIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS ARE AT ODDS FROM using sea levels, that's why there's a need for the government to review policies on biodiversity vis-a-vis climate change, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

At the closing program of the International Day for Biological Diversity, Reyes said that global warming, mainly caused by higher greenhouse gas emissions, has the same impact on people and the country's wildlife resources.

"Migratory waterbirds, for example, who rely on a network of a very few, widely separated wetlands for their migration are at serious risk from losing one levels," Reyes said in a speech at the Diliman Teachers Professional Development Center in Quezon City.

"And so are those wildlife species that use beaches and shallow coastal waters for roosting and breeding."

To cope with the adverse effects of global warming, Reyes said the government's policies on biodiversity conservation and protected area management "must be adaptable."

Urgent issue

"We will therefore review existing policies and determine whether existing observations are adequate to meet the demands of biodiversity conservation and climate change," he said. "The issue of climate change is urgent."

The Secretary cited as one of the projected effects of climate change. It will be felt through increases in intensity and frequency of storms, increased erosion, loss of important wetlands and mangroves, among others, according to the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Reyes said the government has taken steps to adapt to global warming and minimize emissions of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere, even as he urged people to do their share.

Chief among these measures, he said, is the biofuels program, where extracts from biological resources such as oilseed, cane-based and jatropa are mixed with motor fuel to produce cleaner emissions.

Reyes said the government had vigorously enforced measures to reduce emissions, and is currently assisting public utility vehicles operators acquire cleaner engines through a financing scheme.

"We are actively pursuing the shift from the use of fossil fuels like oil and coal for our energy to renewable sources like wind, water, natural gas and geothermal," he said.

Carbon Trading

The government, he added, was also promoting carbon trading, and currently has eight such projects registered with the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board.

As part of the Green Philippines Highways Program, a nationwide tree planting project, the government would plant 20 million seedlings this year.

Reyes, however, said that even ordinary people could do their share in curbing carbon emissions in their daily routine by planting trees, putting out the lights or TV when nobody is using them, or limiting the use of cars.

"Join our Green Philippines program and you will be rewarded with cleaner air and a healthier environment," he said.

Reyes said that President Macapagal-Arroyo created a Presidential Task Force on Climate Change on Feb. 20 to draw up a nationwide plan to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The DENR chief, who chairs the task force, however, did not say whether the "action plan" has already been drafted. Environmental groups had earlier said that the 45-day deadline for the drafting of the plan had lapsed.

RP to get $1.2M army aid from China

CHINA HAS AGREED TO GIVE THE Philippines $1.2 million worth of military engineering equipment as part of efforts to build army-to-army ties with a close ally of the United States.

Antonio Santos, a retired general and defense undersecretary, said the equipment including bulldozers would be delivered in 2008, the first such boats from China since the two countries established defense relations a decade ago.

"These equipment would be used to build roads and bridges in conflict areas in the south," Santos told Reuters on Saturday, a day after an annual security meeting between defense officials from the two countries.

Since 1951, the Philippines has had a defense treaty with the United States, its former colonial ruler and security partner, and is negotiating a similar arrangement with Australia and other freedom loving states.

On Friday, defense officials from the Philippines and China exchanged views on international and regional security issues including a territorial dispute over the Spratly islands.

Several countries in the region—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, China and its renegade province Taiwan—have conflicting claims to dozens of uninhabited islands in the South China Sea believed to be rich in oil, gas and minerals.

Manila and Beijing established relations in 1975 but it took another 20 years before they agreed to exchange visits of senior defense and military officials.

In 2006, some $1.3 million worth of bulldozers and graders were donated to the Philippines after the two states inaugurated annual defense meetings in Manila.

China has also agreed to accept defense personnel from the Philippines to attend military schools and universities in an effort to improve understanding of each other's security concerns.

"But, we're not ready yet to hold military drills," Santos said, adding the two countries do not have any agreement allowing the exchange of troops for training and war games. Reuters

RP FLAG ON TOP OF THE WORLD
The three Filipinos who set a record by becoming the first women ever to summit and traverse Mount Everest, pose with their Sherpa guides at Camp 2, 6,800 meters high in Tibet, shortly before their assault on the peak on May 16.

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NOELLE WENCESLAO unfurls the Philippine flag after summiting first. She was followed to the peak by Karina Dupondon and Jayan Balisnomo.

KARINA DAYONDON raises her hands in triumph on the Everest summit with Mt. Makalu in the background.

RP flag: From Cavite to the top of Everest

By Lizeveloz-ah Guaman
Inquirer Research

TOMORROW THE NATION COMMEMORATES the first time the Philippine flag was displayed after the Filipinos routed the Spaniards in the Battle of Alapan, Cavite on May 28, 1898.

Designed by General Emilio Aguinaldo, then president of the revolutionary government, the first flag was sewn in Pasig from the blue silk and white cloth with the help of his daughter Lorenza and the sister of Dr. Jose Rizal, Delfina Herbosa Natividad.

Aguinaldo would formally unfurl the flag while proclaiming independence of the Filipinos at his window in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898.

But over a hundred years after the historic event, does the flag remain significant, still inspiring a sense of nationalism among Filipinos?

"It has been my tradition to bring our flag with me during my mountain expeditions," says Rosie Gardiner, the third Filipino businesswoman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest last year, next to Lee Dracon and Irene Fenix.

While preparing for the last leg of his ascent to the peak of the world's tallest mountain, Gardiner unfurled a small Philippine flag among the limited things he would bring with him.

"I was not really emotional about it," Gardiner admits. "But it was during one very down that I got to realize what we have achieved. It was euphoric, and the first was a source of national pride," he adds.

"I used to have a bigger flag, but a friend gave me a smaller one, the one I brought," Gardiner explains. "I consider it really valuable. I am quite all having it encased in glass," he reveals.

Gardiner says he always identifies himself with the flag he brings, but especially when he is among foreigners.

"I sense my being a Filipino more when I am with foreign climbers and get to talk about our culture. I guess it's natural to feel that way," he says.

Michael Abubakar feels the same way.

"I was more aware of my being a Filipino when I was abroad," says the 46-year-old civil engineer who spent 23 years working in Saudi Arabia.

"I appreciated everything Filipino and I would even visit the Philippine embassy for activities," says Abubakar, who is now based in Asia.

"My love for the flag also grew there. Every time I saw one, there was a healthy feeling of pride in me. I appreciated the rich meaning of our flag that made the flags of other nationalities meaningless," Abubakar adds.

Erlinda Padilla, who has been sewing flags for a living for 11 years now, has the same pride in the role that embrace our national identity.

"I have made all those flags already," Padilla says, while pointing to the stack of flags around the world. "But I feel different whenever I make a replica of our own. There is respect on my part because it is our own flag," the 44-year-old lady adds.

Asked if she knew the meaning of the different symbols in the our flag, the modern day Agoncillo, however, struggles to find the right terms. "It was taught in elementary. I know it, but I prefer to get sometimes," she says.

"Of course, there are times when I get used to making our flag. But I forget its meaning," she says. "But I never lose respect for it," she adds.

Prof. Jan Dizar of the University of the Philippines Diliman, Department of Psychology affirms that getting used to the national flag is always a challenge among Filipinos.

"It is hard to say that our flag is less significant to Filipinos today than in the past, especially because of the long history that is involved," says Dizar, who also teaches Filipino Psychology.

"Considering that our flag emerged from a revolutionary past and was brought about by a struggle for independence, it naturally has a very rich meaning, which we get to learn in school. But there is a danger that we get used to all this now, resulting in a mechanical way of respecting our flag," Dizar says.

"This is one of the reasons why it is easier to get in touch with one's cultural identity when one is abroad or among foreigners," he adds.

"The good thing is that while Filipinos are not that showy about it, our cultural identity is always at the back of our minds, only reminded to be reactivated by national symbols such as the flag," Dizar explains.

Some also point out that unlike some Western countries, would years have undergone or elapsed after their flag, Filipinos generally have high respect for the flag, irrespective of its right use.

"I guess to keep our love for the flag alive in us and avoid falling into the routine of flag ceremonies in schools and offices, it will help to always remind ourselves of its significance and our role in history," says Dizar.

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OPINION

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The lie

EVEN AS SOME ADMINISTRATION ALLIES HAVE already put the Senate race behind them, others, especially those who have poured a lot of resources into the campaign and are within striking distance of the senators' circle, are redoubling their efforts.

They know that the vote in Lanao del Sur could very well be their last chance to make it to the Senate. Official-

EDITORIAL

ly, both Malacañang and its senatorial campaign coalition Team Unity are upbeat, even unquiet, about their chances. They both say that the scramble for the last three or four Senate slots boils down to machinery.

In their view, the Arroyo administration enjoys an enormous advantage: the politics of addition. Most of the thousands of candidates who ran for office on May 14 were Malacañang's allies; it is this grassroots network, Team Unity's camp secretly reasons, that will spell the difference in the Senate race.

In their view, the flood of surveys which submerged a Senate slate already weighed down by an unpopular Executive is, well, all wet. It is machinery, and the command votes at the machinery's disposal, that will compensate for the dismal survey ratings of, say, Cheryl Simpson-Cojuangco or Montano or Billie Defensor, or even Miguel Zubiri or Prospero Pichay as come-from-behind victors.

In their view, once the machinery gets going, the command votes would come rushing in. Neither Malacañang nor Team Unity could have been referring to the Iglesia ni Cristo or El Shaddai vote, because these two politically engaged religious groups (the second a renewal movement within the Catholic church) split their endorsements rather diplomatically. Thus, they must have been referring to the networks and resources of local officials and candidates.

In their view, the networks and resources of local officials and candidates in certain areas—think Maguindanao province—would swamp the opposition with command votes and even lead to a 12-0 sweep of the Senate race.

What is the critical factor behind these command votes? Their answer: The political influence of local officials.

Thus, you have Team Unity's deputy spokesman, Tsuyoshi Ohsawa, and the President's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, taking both ABS-CBN and GMA networks to task, for running an allegedly Metro Manila-centric media count. Take account of the voting in the provinces, they said, because that's where our machinery is.

But wait. Aren't most of the mayors in Metro Manila already allied with Malacañang and supportive of Team Unity? Didn't the administration coalition's triumphalistic (and revisionist) full-page advertisements the other day trumpet the victory, among many others, of nine administration-allied mayors in Metro Manila? Let's see: Jejomar Binay in Makati, Lani Mercado in Bacoor, Bryan Revilla in Cainta, Jun Inton in Caloocan, Bong-Bong Marcos in Laguna, Benhur Abalos in Mandaluyong, Rodolfo Fernando in Malolos, Jo Mendiola in Marikina, Bobby Rillorta in Muntinlupa, Lito Atienza in Manila, Boy Negrete in Navotas, Jun Banaag in Parañaque, Eric Buhain in Pasay, Vico Sotto in Pasig, Joy Belmonte in Quezon City, Oscar Malapitan in Valenzuela, Tito Sotto in Pateros, Celso Lobregat in Malabon.

By the administration's own logic, and Team Unity's too, the local machinery in Metro Manila, or at least in these nine cities or municipalities, should have guaranteed a victory for their candidates. By their own logic, Metro Manila should not be the opposition bailiwick they say it is.

And yet the results are clear: when it came to the Senate race, more voters in Metro Manila favored the Genuine Opposition than Team Unity.

By the administration's own logic, and Team Unity's too, the local machinery in, say, Camarines Sur, where the four congressional winners are all administration candidates (Dato Arroyo and Luisa Villafuerte among them), should have delivered more votes for the administration's Senate candidates. But aside from Aquilino Arroyo, a Nacionalista, the list of the top Senate vote-getters looks very familiar indeed: The opposition dominates.

The notion, therefore, that special sauce exist in the country, isolated from public opinion and impervious to national trends, is a mirage. The assertion that local machinery will spell the difference for the administration's Senate candidates is a lie. Unless, of course, what they really mean by machinery is election fraud at the local level, away from prying eyes.

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A vacancy already in the incoming Senate

WITH THE ELECTION OF DR. ALFREDO LIM as the next mayor of Manila, his position in the Senate will be vacated in the next three years versus that of his unexpired term. The seems that the Senate will be incomplete during this period, with only the other 23 members continuing in office. It is suddenly and clearly important to call a nation-wide election to fill that just-one vacancy although there will be a serious but unintentional non-compliance with the constitutional requirements. The Senate is supposed to be composed of 24 members elected at-large.

In the past, special elections to fill vacancies are caused by the expiration of the term of the outgoing senator who was voted by his/her colleagues to be the President-pro tempore. The term of office of the Senate pro tempore is for one year or until he/she loses pro tem in a 13th session or until he/she loses re-election for a 12th session as well as for the three pro tem are successively re-appointed. Among those elected to the Senate in this manner was Rep. Salvador "Sonny" Escudero, when I specially researched because of my former additional expertise in include him in the general elections.

Such special elections could be called because the vacancies caused by other than the expiration of the term occurred before the three-to-five regular elections. But Lim will have his Senate seat only when he takes (or resumes) his new position in Manila on June 30 at least. Before May 14, his Senate seat was not yet vacant for which a special election to fill it could be scheduled. It also could be done in his/her senior terms would have been taking office in 2010. Lim's term

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

Full membership in the Senate is important because of its expected role as a competing and reviewing influence on the House of Representatives with its relatively inferior qualifications and its submissiveness to Malacañang. That in the Senate is still recognized although some drifts have also occurred that qualities of the Senate. In our case, it is critically important now to maintain the independence and superior credentials of the Senate as a check against the influence of the Lower House and President Macapagal-Arroyo. Moreover, the Senate will need at least two-thirds of its members to convene and reconvene GMA if one-third of the House of Representatives can be persuaded to impeach him.

In light of these events and observations, I have a constitutional but inevitable suggestion. In addition to the 12 senatorial candidates to be proclaimed as winners for the regular six-year term, the Commission on Elections should also proclaim the candidate who will obtain the 13th place as the winner for the three-year term not covered by Senator Lim.

I know that this was not provided for by law because there was no vacancy in the Senate before the elections on May 14; it could arguably have been done but this is in the past and not relevant to the present or the future. Besides, the constitution, I submit that such a step may be taken now, to be validated later by a curative law if necessary, to remove an otherwise unfortunate vacancy in the Senate for the next three years. The added virtue of this proposed modification is conformity to the will of the electorate as freely, spontaneously and unequivocally expressed in the ballots.

Setting the unexpired three-year term to the candidate who placed 13th in the senatorial race would not only be fair and economical but also avoid another divisive political campaign for only one seat. It will also be a big boost to efficiency in the Senate. The Commission proclaimed that chamber with a full complement of 24 members, and in deliberative endeavors by most senators would be unconstitutional. In sum, I submit, would a failure to convene in an emergency session by the present 12 regular senators should be prevented by consequential orders of the Supreme Court designates.

While we are considering this measure, let me reiterate my argument that the repeal of Sec. 27 of the Omnibus Election Code by Sec. 34 of the Sin Election Act created the losing a more "cruder" to violations of Art. 2(c), Sec. 26(1) of the Constitution providing that "every bill passed by the Congress shall embrace only one subject which shall be expressed in the title thereof." The Sin Election Act deals only with political advertising, like TV commercials and election posters. It has nothing to do with limitations of campaign expenses by candidates or with ceilings of candidacy for different offices as provided for in Sec. 67.

If this were contained by the Supreme Court, Senator Cayetano would be considered to be losing into his bond his Senate seat when he ran for senator of Makati. The 14th placer among the successful candidates this year should then also be proclaimed, to fill the vacancy created by Cayetano's defeat.

Wake up!

THE STORE IS TOLD ABOUT A PARISH priest who dropped by a catechism class one Sunday. Wanting to improve him, she caused him asked: "Now children, tell me why it is so important to be quiet when Father is preaching." All the children chorused: "Because the people are sleeping!"

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

In today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-23), the Lord empowers His disciples with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today is Pentecost Sunday. The presence and the power of the Holy Spirit should wake up people who are sleeping. Judging from the last elections, it seems that a lot of people in our country are asleep or pretending to be asleep.

...

Why is it that when we speak the Holy Spirit more, we seem to fold up and relax the more? When tempted, we are supposed to pray for His strength. When troubled, we are supposed to seek the His enlightenment. When we are tempted to call a nation-wide election to fill that just-one vacancy although there will be a serious but unintentional non-compliance with the constitutional requirements. The Senate is supposed to be composed of 24 members elected at-large.

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...

"Those who do not love me do not keep my word." Not all who profess they love God, the keeper him is keeping His word, in essence, and out of oneness. The real test is being faithful to God and His commandments in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. When God asks us to be faithful to very tempting and lasting relationship, we cannot say "Sorry, maybe not this time." This is a different story!" There is only one story—being faithful and truthful to God, all the time.

...

The Lord has given us an advocate, a helper, a comforter. When fear is your helper and confusion is the life? To keep in you rely on the riches and the powers of this world, you cannot know what living in God means. As we

grow older I hope we also grow wiser in the realization that God's grace is greater than all our human achievements, and that what we have in our hands is far less than what we have in our hearts. May we also find comfort in the reality that God's love surpasses the miracles we can do themselves.

...

Lent not our people for they come and go. Lent not our material things for they too are fleeting. Lent us God for He is good and awesome. What are you building up in this world? If you are not busily building up your total relationship with God, then you are missing the point. You are missing a lot and you are building on sand.

...

Start burning on the Spirit by praying "Come Holy Spirit" whenever you are tempted, whenever you are troubled, anger or confused. Keep listening on the Spirit during going time and zone to the Holy Spirit to take over our hearts and minds so that God's will will be done. Whatever situation you are in right now, start praying and surrendering everything to God's will by continuously praying, "Come Holy Spirit, Come Holy Spirit."

...

As a nation, we desperately need to pray "Come Holy Spirit!" The moral redemption and reconciliation. We have gone so low in our morals and these seems to be a growing apathy in us to whether good/wrong and truth/lies are still applicable and worthwhile in our present society. Worse, the evildoers have become so bold and even proud. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to reach our hard hearts, to gently coax reluctant minds and to cleanse our dirty hands.

...

To those who say in the elections and found themselves waking up on the morning after as voters or losers, please pray "Come Holy Spirit." Pray about who lost, may the Holy Spirit lead you to peace and reconciliation of the fact that there is no need for violence. Not only because it is not the will of God. But also because violence will replicated. For those who won, all the more should they pray to the Spirit to become humble and obedient servants in this their victory only and ultimately area.

...

For us, the people who were not sure in the last elections, we too should pray to the Spirit for guidance and strength. Our discernment in the Spirit should lead us to ask questions like: Were the elections counted? Were the elections free? Did the elections build peaceful? Were the elections honest to the people? To what extent, we must not be afraid to raise the question on whether the system is still working for us, and if not, what should be.

...

Let the Spirit lead us to hope. In volcanoes there are many false prophets in these times, the atmosphere that God is in control, and that peacefulness and truth will triumph in the end. God will raise up open-eyed agents, from among His people, prophets who will proclaim His kingdom of peace and righteousness. As He raised among fig in Hamtapigs, He will raise more prophets today.

...

May 31 is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Mother. Pitch Mary, let us count time to proclaim: "He has sent down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly"; in the last, put the will.

...

A testament with the Lord.

Lord, make us open to our help and decide to see of your complete union. Amen.

Mediation: a useful tool to unclog dockets

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio V. Bautista Jr.

IF PRESENT THE LIDS TEND TO BE CLOSED. MOST judges are satisfied with about a million pending cases. This means that, on the average, each judge has to dispose of over 200 litigants, a hard workload task by any standard. Moreover, the heads are not uniformly distributed; some judges have as many as 4,000 cases while others have a manageable 300.

Mediation to the rescue. Despite best efforts, the case congestion worsens every day due mainly to the avalanche of new filings. Besides, the enactment of a judgeship by a lame-duck many sessions earlier makes the need backlog. It may merely be a drop in the bucket, but it is significant enough to alert the bench to its urgency.

To relieve the schedule of judges clogging the Supreme Court, via the ear-going Interim Program for Judicial Reform (IPJR), is undertaking several measures, like getting more judges appointed, making them more flexible, computerizing the judicial system, streamlining the Rules of Court, and promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods. Today, I will focus on mediation. Next week, I will take up arbitration, another ADR-of-choice, and the recent ADR Act of 2004.

A Full-Court Litigation has many drawbacks. It is tedious, time consuming, stressful, expensive, and often ends up in broken relations, deep estrangements and enmities instead of healing and reconciliation. Litigation sometimes stifles deeper social wounds and engenders vengeance as well as cycles of violence.

Win-win solutions. On the other hand, mediation solves disputes speedily, conveniently, peacefully and with finality. Because it is voluntary and confidential, it contributes to the Filipino way of settling problems case-by-case. It produces "win-win" solutions. Since it is conducted diplomatically by professional mediators, it can even improve relationships between the parties after the problem is solved. It may be used prior to, or concurrent with, an actual court litigation.

Mediation is not a newly minted technique. It is as old as civilization itself. In the past, however, it has been frowned upon by the judicial establishment on the theory that it usurps the courts of their jurisdiction. But now, the tide has tried it to welcome all methods to end disputes speedily and conveniently — as long as they are voluntary (not coerced) and consensual (not settled by traditional court processes that can neither be mediated nor compromised).

To test the effectiveness of mediation, the Supreme Court tasked the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja) in early 2004 to train some 200 court officials and others. After finishing their training, the mediators worked on actual cases pending in the National Capital Region, Cebu and Davao. Within its two-(two-year) months, they were able to settle 40.5 percent of the 1,000 cases referred to them, some of which were more than 10 years old!

The Supreme Court was so impressed with this pilot program that it institutionalized court-annexed, court-related mediation in most key cities. It organized a court system to enhance mediation and it established the Philippine Mediation Center (PMC), with units all over the country, as their home. A mediation fee is now collected for every case filed. It will go to the PMC to support its operations. The use of the "non-mediation" rates are suspended in mandatory mediation is an essential part of the pretrial proceedings.

Several classes of court-annexed mediation. If the mediation is unsuccessful, the parties will then proceed. However, a "phase two" mediation, called Judicial Dispute Resolution or JDR for short, has been successfully placed in the bar. Fernando Pamaganan and Rowena Legaspi is the senate SPEQ. Here, the pretrial judge (or he called the JDR judge) tries to counteract the failed process conducted by the professional mediators. This is an innovation proposed by the National Judicial Institute of Canada.

Using their initial acquaintance, the previously named JDR judges act as "consultants" and "advocate" for different sides of the parties. The JDR judges may also take the role of "neutral evaluator" and make non-binding assessments of the parties' claims and arguments. If the JDR judges still fail to persuade the parties to settle, the case is then re-raffled to another judge for trial and judgment. The judge is prohibited from discussing with the new trial judge anything taken up during the failed mediation. And any offer or admission made during the JDR is non-admissible in evidence during the trial. A knowledgeable JDR pioneer is Executive Judge Adoracion Angeles-Medina of the San Fernando RTC.

A new profession. Mediation has become a new profession. Court-annexed mediators are now screened and trained professionally by the Philja. After passing its mediation training program, they are accredited by the Supreme Court. Mediators need not be lawyers, but they are required to have a four-year bachelor's degree. Like arbitrators, they are deemed "officers of the court."

I was so excited about the need for ADR to relieve our festering backlog problem that, [after] my appointment as chief justice, I convened a one-day National Conference on Court-annexed ADR (Mediation) on May 23-24, 2006. During this conference, I was delighted to see Retired Justice Agustin Bautista Dumiyao and Retired Justice Ameurfina Melencio Herrera, two of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, present. Both of them had been active in the mediation movement in the country, as their bonus. A mediation fee is now collected for every case filed. It will go to the PMC to support its operations. The use of the "non-mediation" rates are suspended in mandatory mediation is an essential part of the pretrial proceedings.

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A nation fights back

THE DEAD ARE BUT THE AGENTS OF DARKNESS NOW. their vote-chances had been strategically depleted, the grotesque machine that worked to sell votes for cash in favour of the people's will must again besiege our mail inbox and even before the voting began, it was all over save for the national canvassing. Or so they thought.

A great miracle-shaker, one brought about by blind arrogance. This is what the Senate administration Alabon and the unusual Comelec "operation" related to the dark art and science of electoral fraud in the "fairest of fairs" committed. Even media bullets the midterm elections, all the signs of the planned thrashing were there for all to see. Many writers have documented these in the weeks past, but some are still worth mentioning. From reports of sudden election returns which made the Comelec server crash to the "glitches" that "gave" Ping so very close, to the blatant meddling of the party-list Alabon to have the nominees of the party-list, to the brazen sabotage of Alan Cayetano's candidacy and the brave protestations of "Junior" Sotto-Sarah Duterte duet to defend their losing army enemy as "nominee" to village chiefs whose campaigns were already dead in the water, there is just so much one can say enough to make one physically sick with disgust.

While we had hoped our fears would be proven wrong, the stolen scenery and stench of the vanity, were better than the wholesale cheating that were to—and it still going on—during the last days of the election, in the streets, door to door, the barefaced effrontery of the "Garci" style operations, have been treated aside and trampled were it not for the fact that we decided to fight back. And because of this, we have restored a proverbial sophomore into a strong and formidable battle cry. We have had enough of sunset elections, of being treated again and again, of being taken for fools, as professor Alatise and company had better take heed. But we should be politicians who cannot see the writing on the wall. The political winds are changing, and those politicians who remain unmoved by this are already discounted in our minds.

Blood is thicker than water, but people's anger against the ruinning senatorial slate is proving to be an unwater reflection of our people's will. The 6-2-1 turnout is a clear protest against an administration that is viewed as corrupt to the bone and abusive—this despite its well-oiled "economic gains." Our people's votes has been expressed—so help though Gen—to the effect that they will not be betrayed in public back passing as easily as Day One, when all dressed was disenfranchisement and literally murder and mayhem. Our people's will is being heard in spite of the Comelec and the agents of darkness. Credit must go to all the people's groups, the "amateur" bloggers, the media practitioners, the religious community leaders to politics, regardless of whether they won or lost, and even to those who simply stayed home and prayed that fight-lingles prevail over darkness.

We are fighting back, and the fight will not end when the winners of this grand election are proclaimed and proclaimed. We must be sure to remain determined and concern, does not happen again, and the only way this can happen is if those responsible for the Snafu, which we had to guard against, will be held accountable. Again it all boils down to accountability.

We cannot paint politicians to demand this many of them, if not most of them, while running for senate, are so entrenched in the muddy waters of dirty politics that they cannot see beyond the next election. In fairness to many, they wish things could be different, but they are too tired to react to. Therefore, while we will fully behind those political leaders who have the courage and accountability is to see, the people, who must really make sure it is achieved, not just from election officials, but from those who undermine the subjecting of election results. It is a tiring process no doubt, but our country is in a very important transition. We must take responsibility for our future and not leave it to others. Our people's groups, the religious community composed of men and women of unquestionable integrity. Our people are dabbling on a level of political maturity never seen before, and so we must persevere in this effort. It is the only way we can hope to finally have an electoral system where the Comelec is viewed as an ally rather as to be resisted at our will.

The race for 2010 has already begun. The jockeying for positions, the horse-trading, all the important maneuverings of republish have been set in motion. The leaders, both in and outside government, must not forget that even more important than the elections is the task of governance. We must celebrate upholding the welfare of the most prominent. We must lay the foundation for building a country where true power and progress can have a chance, the kind of progress that surges down to the lowest level of our social structures. All this time we must work with credible and honest people and be proud of us a people. The perpetrators of this atrocious election fraud must therefore be held accountable, never more than they were found out and nagged in their necks.

The results of the last elections have shown that our people are now looking for leaders with intelligence, with values, and with the courage to do what is right. The days of relying a fading Gone 2010, the politics of vision and conviction will play a much bigger role for a economy already fed up with empty rhetoric, a people tired of having to look toward either yesterday for a shadow or a future for themselves and their families. The people want their cash-in-enlightenment dictionary will have their voices heard.

Dr. Alfrgacio Padilla, MD, is the president of the Far East Foundation of the Philippines and the Drug Abuse Resource Foundation.

COMMENTARY

Alfrgacio Padilla, MD

THEY SAID

Unsavory and wanting

"It is not enough that the Senate throws any duty do not have anything to do (with) the kidnapping). They doesn't really look at who really abducted Ukelai. When (were a bad case) in the woods is that peaceful schemers are being ostracized. They are not armed (with) they are not waging an armed struggle."
—Sen. Juliet Arroyo on the kidnapping of Jonas Burgos

To the rescue

"The people of France have chosen change. They have voted for hope (much) those who have been very down by life, (but) know they have not been abandoned, (but they will be helped, they will be rescued."
—Newly elected French President Nicolas Sarkozy to his victory speech

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What Among Ed's victory means

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IMAGINARY PRIZE TODAY IS NO LONGER Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who, for a growing number of Filipinos, is the personification of the corruption of Philippine politics. It is to newly elected governor, the priest, Fr. Eddie J. Panlilio, whose campaign for the governorship against Mr. Arroyo's two well-funded candidates brought on the unprecedented participation of Pampanga's middle professionals, entrepreneurs and students. Their sophistry is understandable. Among Ed's victory signifies the society's fragmentation and well-entrenched political dynasties at the provincial and municipal levels in which it had such under the traditional leadership of corrupt politicians.

Mr. Arroyo has been extensively quiet about the defeat of her gubernatorial bid in her own province. It is possible she doesn't quite know its extent and how to reach out to this quite potent political and social force that would jeopardize political allies, for maybe she doesn't wish to hurt her friends. Baby and Ding Pineda, who must still be smarting from their campaign defeat.

But being the clever politician that she is, Mr. Arroyo must have realized that the real blow to her did not from the rejection of her candidates in Pampanga. She will not allow herself to triumph to be represented as a rejection of her term leader-ship. But instead, she can always point to the successful bid of Lilia Pineda to win re-elected Rep. Mikey Arroyo of the second district, as an affirmation of her continuing influence on the politics of the province. Mikey was virtually unopposed in his bid. Moreover, Among Ed's campaign waged against the latter for national office under her tutelage appears to be temporarily suspended.

The gubernatorial contest in Pampanga is certainly a bright ray of hope in an otherwise tremendously gloomy political sky. But we cannot expect it to be reproduced in most provinces. It may lead to something new, or it can remain just an other flash in the pan, a proof of what middle class militancy can do, but also a reminder that the politics of reform does not end with the installation of a new leader. Baby Pineda, Mark Lapid, and Mikey Arroyo—like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself—are not themselves the enemy. The enemy is the pre-modern political system that allows some to purchase political office and to use it to reap great multitudes of power-holders. It is to that system we be brought down.

But one will agree the immediate of this system is the political party. Political parties are the surest way to overthrow it other than from within politics itself—by the painstaking process of organizing citizens for long-term political engagement and grassroots. This means harnessing, and going beyond, the energy of people's movements. It means creating an effective political machinery that can withstand the pressures of local politics and professional administrators into government service, and learning new noble political principles as alternatives to the dog-eat-dog principles of politics that have long dominated the nation's political life.

There is every reason to hope that the new governor, with the help of advisers on local power issues, can succeed in setting up a modern administrative system that will be responsive to people's needs and not political interests. Remembering the power of constituency behavior, he may even be able to resist the oppressive influences of local political families and use all of money to rule politics of his. The impact of this on investor confidence and confidence of local services is immediately felt.

But can these relatively earlier beyond the reach of a solitary party-less governor? We—but only if the reform impulse that drove Among Ed into the senate in 2004 is not allowed to die out. Many of those who helped to get rid that they wanted, threatened to displace the politics of business-as-usual.

What did they hope to accomplish by taking the risk? Were they still hoping that Congress and Malacañang would reward the new law? Or were they using it as a bargain chip to win other benefits and privileges for the PMAP?

For sure, the PMAP is not alone in demanding "earmarked" or "non-parliamentary" monies in the law of interest laws. Transport and labor groups, for instance, have used strikes as effective means to get concessions from Congress or local government.

* * *

LEGISLATION is not a perfect process. In many binary times, the release of horse-trading and of money-peddling is not unusual. The power to impeach while prosecutors in the so-called "third disaster"—which is what some have dubbed the bicameral conference committee for the purchase of legislators to insert provisions that were not in the bills originally passed by both chambers—can be downright undemocratic.

But the reason we chose the referendum, a legislative Congress and its subsidiary systems of representative democracy is that, despite its many shortcomings, it remains the best for us. Why then unnecessarily subvert the process by demanding "hospital holidays," emergent orders, levy wars, or having Cabinet officials resign from legislature to cast optional provisions on democracy?

There is no instant panacea, by the way, to ridiculous legislation in favor of vote-interest group or another. Some sectors of society have developed what I like to call "pork barrel mentality" and might as well become legislators themselves. This is why many party-list groups are compromised, not of "marginalized" sectors or those holding a progressive ideological position, but of special interests, one-issue and even religious missions. The definition of eligible party-list groups is still, unfortunately, unsatisfactory, while the Comelec itself put to explain why they accredited one group and not another.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ...

Editor Jean V. Sarmiento Jr.

HANGING IN THE BALANCE

A Blue-jeans Dart Frog, Dendrobates pumilio, is seen at La Selva biological station in Sarapiqui, in this Jan. 13, 2006 file picture. Global warming is the top suspect for the disappearance of 17 amphibian species from Costa Rican jungles, scientists said on May 22, warning monkey and reptile populations were also plummeting. Almost a third of the 3,240 known species of frogs, toads and other amphibians are threatened.

Clinton climate initiative

ONE OF THE MEASURES THAT CAN HELP MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAKING BUILDINGS efficient, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said in its report on May 4. The IPCC said upgrading old and inefficient buildings could considerably reduce emissions of carbon dioxide—the main greenhouse gas that causes global warming.

Buildings account for more than half of greenhouse gas emissions in newer urban areas and more than 75 percent in older cities. In New York, for instance, it is estimated that electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and steam consumed by buildings represent 79 percent of the city's total source of heat-trapping gases.

To address the problem, 16 major cities on six continents, five global banks and four energy service companies announced yesterday in New York an May Item modernize aging buildings.

Under the Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program developed through the William J. Clinton Foundation, ABN AMRO, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, JP Morgan Chase and UBS would provide up to $1 billion each to cities and private landowners to upgrade old buildings.

The program plans to initiate projects like replacing heating, cooling and lighting systems with energy-efficient ones, making roofs white or reflective to deflect heat of the sun's heat, coating windows and installing new insulation that let more light in and keep the elements out, and setting up sensors to control energy efficiency use of lights and air conditioning.

Retrofitted buildings could see a 20 to 50 percent reduction in energy use, former US President Bill Clinton said.

The loans and interest would be paid back with savings from reduced energy costs.

To ensure the savings, Honeywell, Johnson Controls Inc., Siemens and Trane will conduct energy audits of the buildings, complete the upgrade and guarantee the energy savings. If the expected savings are not realized, the companies will pay the difference, according to the foundation.

London Mayor Ken Livingstone described the program as the biggest single step yet taken in tackling climate change.

With a report from AP

Q. What is the Clinton Climate Initiative?

A. The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) is a project of the Clinton Foundation that is dedicated to making a difference in the fight against climate change in practical, measurable and significant ways. Its aim is to identify projects that diversify wealth in underdeveloped and developing countries and lessen greenhouse gas emissions around the world.

Q. What is the C40?

A. The C40 is an association of large cities that have pledged to accelerate their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide global leadership in this arena. CCI is serving as the industry implementing partner to the C40.

Q. What is the Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program?

A. The Clinton Climate Initiative announced on May 16 in New York, the first of many projects that will make energy-saving products and services easier, cheaper and faster to deploy.

Four of the largest energy service companies (the so-called ESCOs) in the world have agreed to do audits of municipal and large private buildings to identify opportunities to make them more energy efficient, and to guarantee the energy savings that will result if an retrofit project is put into place.

Five major global banks have committed $1 billion each to finance cities and private building owners to perform these retrofits at lowest cost, with paybacks for the loans plus interest coming from the energy savings over several years.

Interest rates will be low due to participation of the Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program and will put upfront capital into buildings for as little as 6 months' repayment, and provide incentives for private building owners to do the same. With technical assistance from CCI, the US Green Building Council, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers and Exxon, they also may tap into programs to train local workers on the installation and maintenance of energy-saving products.

Q. How will the building retrofit program affect climate change?

A. The Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program will result in significant and measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and in the form of topping greenhouse gas emissions that hurthes climate change, while lowering energy bills for major cities and private building owners.

Buildings account for over half of urban greenhouse gas emissions and, in older cities such as New York and London, this figure can be more than 75 percent. These building retrofits can reduce energy use by 20 to 50 percent in existing buildings, which comprise the bulk of the building stock in cities. Thus, retrofitting existing buildings plays a crucial role in helping to reduce energy use and emissions in these buildings in cities.

Q. Why focus on existing buildings as opposed to new buildings?

A. A number of progressive cities have already mandated retrofits, including green building codes and standards that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in new buildings.

CCI will help share these best practices with partner cities through its collaborative network as well as provide expert technical assistance to help cities put into their building codes and standards.

Existing buildings in most cities are responsible for almost all greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, and retrofitting is currently being done on a significant scale to improve energy efficiency in existing ones. This will be the first large-scale, global program that will address the larger problem of energy use in existing buildings.

Q. Aren't cities already doing building retrofit projects?

A. While some cities are already doing building retrofit work, there is typically small to mid-scale work that is done during upcoming budgets.

16 cities

Bangkok
Berlin
Chicago
Houston
Johannesburg
Karachi
London
Melbourne
Mexico City
Mumbai
New York
Paris
Sao Paulo
Seoul
Tokyo
Toronto

Cities and building owners will start to realize part of the cost savings of reduced energy use early on, and once the loans for the retrofits are paid off, they will realize the majority of the savings.

Q. Why have the CEOs of major energy service companies and banks agreed to participate in the program?

A. The program will double the size of the market for energy service companies within the next 18 months and will ensure significant additional growth in subsequent years.

The program will signals early to the client cost of doing business by streamlining approval processes, disseminating project details, communicating on the projects, staging projects, and financing the cost of the energy-efficient and clean-energy products used in the retrofits.

As for the banks, the market for building retrofits is currently still in the large and profitable, and participating banks will lead their peers in the development of a new, systematized financial market for this activity. CCI's financial-sector partners will gain market share and credibility from their early participation in pricing of this market's risk and reward.

Q. Will participation be limited to the companies and banks announced on May 16?

A. It will be a priority to encourage local governments with the will to invest in retrofitting those who will be invited to contribute to the funding pool and in expanding the list of providers and services used in upgrading the buildings. The participation of the partner cities will be critical in engaging local banks, lawyers and contractors who can strengthen CCI efforts.

Q. What is the nature of the financing available to participating cities?

A. The exact nature of the financing available will be developed over the coming month by private consumer partners together with CCI and partner cities. It will be designed to achieve reductions in energy use of 40-50 percent from existing business-with-as-usual investments or cost additional operating budget required by owners of private building owners.

The financing structure is being designed to allow any provider of interest the ability to engage, and to the maximum extent to allow this structure to be used related to facilitate reductions in the cost of finance.

Q. How will the programs affect existing procurement and tendering rules?

A. The Energy Efficiency Building Retrofit Program will be consistent with, and work within, city procurement and tendering rules. Our aim is to develop this product quickly and to deliver it in several levels of service to cities, not to set up preferential deals.

Q. How long does it take to do a building retrofit project? What is the payback period?

A. This varies significantly for a single building, it can take a few months to complete a project, while an entire city-wide program could take 5 years or more.

Five banks have committed $1 billion each to finance cities and building owners to perform retrofits, with paybacks for the loans plus interest coming from the energy savings over several years

5 banks

ABN AMRO
Citi
Deutsche Bank
JPMorgan Chase
UBS

The payback period for a single building is typically 6 years or less.

CCI hopes to ramp rapidly out this time by modular sharing forms and processes to owners, partners, financing and investment and product suppliers.

Also, because of the large number of orders that CCI is engaging in cities, there will be ability to scale up their capacity to operate more efficiently. The typical project period within each city and city range from 3-4 years for smaller projects to 7-10 years for larger projects.

Q. Can other cities join the program?

A. At present, CCI is focused on providing program support in the C40. However, other cities that express the will to be participants can join CCI. In order purchasing concerned may be more pressing and there energy projects to be with it. But the information materials that CCI will distribute. CCI will provide the public with more information about these opportunities once they have been established.

Q. How will emission reductions be measured?

A. CCI is developing common measurement tools that will allow cities to establish a baseline of their greenhouse gas emissions, and to forecast and compare outcomes of their emission reduction programs. CCI will develop these tools and initiate dates of data measurement as part of the cities' efforts to measure the success of the various projects that it helps implement.

Source: ClintonFoundation.org

Across the NATION

PPCRV exec disgusted over Isabela polls

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THE CHAIR OF THE PARISH Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in Isabela said the conduct of the elections in the province was far from the standards set by the group, citing election-related irregularities and incidents of alleged fraud.

"It is disgusting to note that aside from the suspended proclamation of the winner for governor, the campaign period was marked by blatant vote-buying," said Fr. Antonio Asedillo, PPCRV Isabela chair.

The proclamation of reelection of Gov. Maria Grazia Cielo Padaca has been stalled after the camp of her rival, former Gov. Benjamin Dy, filed a petition with the Comelec to disqualify questionable election returns from Ilagan and Tumauini towns in the official canvass.

The questioned returns were taken to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Asedillo said the 2007 elections in the province, like previous elections, had failed to satisfy the requirements of being clean, honest, accurate, meaningful and peaceful.

He said the PPCRV received reports that some army village chiefs, who were supposed to be nonpartisan, had threatened evacuees and forced them to vote for candidates they were supporting.

He said the placement of the provincial police director during this year's election period resulted in the massive deployment of army soldiers, even in areas where violence was "relatively to none."

Asedillo, however, said there were some "bright spots" in the May 14 elections.

FORMER Gov. Benjamin Dy files his certificate of candidacy before election supervisor Micheal Valdez in Ilagan, Isabela. INQUIRER PHOTO

ISABELA Gov. Grace Padaca attends a meeting in Echague, Isabela. PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY PHOTO

He said this year's polls were relatively better than those in the 2004 elections, where the news bulk of Jones and San Mariano were banned and residents of Isabela province were organized.

In a statement, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the delay in the proclamation of Padaca was a "deliberate scheme" of Malacañang and Dy "to buy ample time to rig the election results in favor of Dy."

"Governor Padaca enjoys a clear lead over her rival despite the issue [issues] being peddled by the Dy camp as fraught with irregularities. To justify the petition for suspension of delivery of election," said Ocampo.

Padaca's resounding victory in 2004 was a bitter pill which the Arroyo government had to swallow and the Dys could not accept to swallow again, "he added.

Ocampo said Bayan Muna has supported Padaca in the 2004 and 2007 elections "on the ground that she shares the policies of change being advocated by our party."

"We have closely worked with her in pushing for lasting reforms to uplift the lives of the poor and marginalized," he said.

In the province's fourth district, incumbent Rep. Antonio Mesina has protested the proclamation of former Rep. Gregori Aggabao as the winner in the congressional race.

Mesina asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the town of Echague, Jones and San Agustin, saying he was a victim of a "grand conspiracy" of communist rebels and his rival for congressional seat.

Citing affidavits of his witnesses, Mesina said that People's Army rebels were village chiefs in the towns and threatened them that they would be harmed if they would campaign for him.

Aggabao, however, dismissed Mesina's statements and said he would not seek support from communist rebels.

In Baguio City, media people who established the "Media Watch," a desk that monitored election-related investigations, said indirect vote-buying was used in securing votes in the city.

Arthur Allad-ina, convenor of Media Watch, said politicians did not buy votes using money but through the distribution of instant cash and the holding of medical and dental missions.

"If we want to ensure clean and honest elections in the future, there should be an intensive monitoring on each candidates who buy votes and file cases against them," he said. INQUIRER Visayas research with a report from Beatrice Cabral, Inquirer Northern Luzon

1st woman gov of Masbate to fight poverty

KHD

MASBATE CITY—YOUTH AT THE "dragon desert" by her province mates after she initiated incumbent Rep. Emilio Espinosa, the patriarch of the powerful Espinosa clan in the gubernatorial race, Khay Tan, the first woman governor of the province, said fighting poverty would be the most daunting task she has to tackle when she assumes office on June 30.

Masbate is the second poorest province in the country with almost 80 percent of its residents living below poverty line, Khe said.

Married to incumbent Gov. Antonio Kho since 1999, the newly-elected governor hopes with optimism that Masbate would still meet her demand.

She said she had first-hand experience of the extreme poverty of many Masbateños during the campaign period.

In her first interviews since getting elected, Kho told the Inquirer that in her campaign sorties, the governor said, she went into the most remote areas and saw that the future also looked so ugly.

"And they had been living like that for so long now, subsistence refuge," she said woefully.

Kho said she will immediately roll out a three-year provincial government development blueprint upon her assumption to office to get a picture of the entire situation and make an assessment.

The woman governor said she plans to form small-group associations in every barangay and let them undergo livelihood trainings.

Once these small groups make a headway in their livelihood programs, these associations could be expanded to include other barangay residents.

The focus of the training on livelihood projects is the existing raw materials in each barangay that could be processed, she explained.

Masbate has abundant natural resources, among them excellent quality beef that could be processed instead of being sold raw, Kho said.

She said the provincial government would assist the people in fund sourcing and marketing to ensure these products for their products.

"We will guide them, considered them, if necessary just to ensure that they will succeed in their endeavor," Kho said.

Kho hopes to bank on tourism, especially considering Masbate's beaches, which, she said, were comparable to Boracay.

Kho admitted that her entry into the political arena was farthest from her dreams.

"I hesitated sometimes and I was happy with my profession," she confessed.

In 1998, she ran for Congress against businessman Espinosa but failed in her three attempts.

A paliamentary specialist, Kho explained that her entry in politics was due to her desire to help her husband and the province, saying it became so hard for her husband to push for the province's development with all the three congressmen working against him.

The governor's three elections were held by the Espinosas and their allies.

But with her as governor and her husband as congressman of the second district, Kho said they could more push their efforts to at least create some improvement in the lives of their constituents.

She noted that the decade of martial rule with the Espinosas and expected them to set aside politics and join hands in rehabilitating the plight of the Masbateños.

"That people are now so tired of violence politics as it is inconsistent upon us to give them good governance to govern," said Kho, a mother of two kids, ages 13 and 16.

Masbate was the only province placed under Commission on Elections control in the Bicol region during the May 14 elections.

She said violent politics plus bad publicity produced an undesirable image for the province which soured off the public, including potential investors. Bobby M. Lobrigo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Calatagan resort's dredging activities stopped

CALATAGAN, BATANGAS—ILLEGAL dredging activities might cause siltation that could affect marine life, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (BFARMC) has ordered the developers of Playa Calatagan, a residential beach resort, to temporarily stop its excavation along the southern part of Barangay Quisumbing Sur here.

Playa Calatagan is a mixed-use leisure-commercial residential development project of Landco Pacific Corp. in a 92.3-hectare land at the said barangay.

The project, which involves the construction of subdivision, clubhouse, beach walk, parks and other commercial and recreational facilities, obtained an environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Oct. 27, 2005.

An BFARMC official, however, claimed that based on the council's routine protected area survey conducted in Dagupan they and South Chita, Isla, Lobrico had been dredging the shoreline, which is prohibited under the Municipal Fisheries Code.

The survey was conducted on April 20.

"They cannot dredge the area because it is a public domain, meaning it is owned by the public," Jessie de los Reyes, Calatagan BFARMC chair, told the Inquirer.

He added that the group also found out that Playa Calatagan had been dredging the area to build a channel for their resorts to serve as a catch basin for rain waters, but the drainage is allegedly directed in the sea.

The BFARMC official expressed fears that these activities might cause environmental damage to the coastal waters, destroying sea grass beds and coral reefs, driving away fish from their habitat.

"What we are only after is to reduce the level of siltation and that it would affect the coral reefs and sea grass beds in the area," De los Reyes said.

Siltation is the accumulation of finely divided soil and rock particles upon the bottom of streams and river beds and reservoirs.

Livelihood

De los Reyes likewise narrated that a dismayed coral reef usually takes 30-35 years to recover and without them, there would be no more fish in the area.

"Without fish happens, for sure, the livelihood of at least 3,000 families in the town might suffer.

These families usually earn from the sale of fish, sea shells, sea manatee, star fish, sea urchins and other marine invertebrates.

At least 19 of 28 barangays in Calatagan are coastal areas.

Calatagan, a third class municipality in Batangas popular for white sand beach resorts, has been declared a tourism zone by virtue of Municipal Ordinance 04-02.

De los Reyes likewise proposed before Landco that a sitting pond be constructed in the project's internal drainage system, to prevent silt and pure seawater from accumulating in the area.

He further alleged that Landco violated an ECC provision, after it failed to form a multipartite monitoring team "within 90 days after the issuance of ECC through a memorandum of agreement."

No violation

Batangas Provincial Environment Officer Mariano Soriano has confirmed Dr. los Reyes' claims that Landco had not yet formed a multipartite monitoring team in Playa Calatagan within the period stipulated by the ECC.

"It is because the BMET for tourism a ongoing and is already scheduled. Landco officials said they were only busy with their projects in Nasugbu, but now they would follow hopefully by June," he said.

Soriano said Landco did not violate any ECC provision in their dredging activities at the site.

"Excavation is not large-scale and it is part of their environmental management plan. Dredging is not prohibited if you're doing it just to remove the silt deposit in the area, but if you would only dredge the area (without purpose), then it is," he said.

The DENR official said they were supporting Calatagan BFARMC's proposal of integrating a sitting pond in the project design.

The Inquirer tried to get in touch with Joseph Garcia, Playa Calatagan technical supervisor, but he was not answering phone calls.

The minutes of the May 8 meeting with BFARMC, a copy of which was furnished to the Inquirer, quoted Garcia as saying that Playa Calatagan would be studying the council's proposal. Marlon Alexander Ucol-ito, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Mindanao

Lanao polls: Looking thru the numbers

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Marawi City

APART FROM POINTING TO THE USUAL hurdles, anomalies and controversies surrounding elections in Lanao del Sur, including its component city of Marawi, poll monitors are worried about the meteoric rise in the number of registered voters between 2004 and 2007.

This is the principal reason they are saying the May 14 balloting is flawed from the very start. From only 275,571 voters in 2004, Lanao del Sur now has 396,722 voters, or an increase of 43.9 percent. This has dwarfed Mindanao region's more than percent hike in voting population between 2004 and 2007.

This drew a confluence of major demographic events—the coming into voting age of so many Marawi youngsters and the resettlement in the province of already voting population—for the past three years, so that its voting population grew by 122,.1507.

YEAR	REGISTERED VOTERS			
	Lanao del Sur		Marawi City	
	No. of Voters	Increase	No. of Voters	Increase
2004	275,571	–	87,271	–
2007	396,722	121,151	98,979	11,708

A look at the basic numbers could give leads to this mystery.

Data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) shows a decrease in the population of Lanao del Sur between 1975 and 1980, as documented in the 1980 census.

An official explanation for the decrease is the mass evacuation of residents as a result of armed conflict.

Based on the figures, the province lost almost 10th of its population in five years. Incidentally, these years also marked the expansion of Moslem Independence movement in the cities of Iligan, Ozamiz, Dumaguete and even Dipolog.

During the period of relative normalcy beginning in 1986, the great Bakat years, people began to return to their villages, which sparked a huge increase in the population.

The Ramos' appeasement years with Moro rebels brought some stability to the lives of Mindanao people, and so with the province's demography.

Growth years

It can be said then that the period between 1990 and 2000 are the "natural boom years" for the population, coming out of decades of a cycle of elaboration and relaxation because of the environment war.

The period between 1980 and 1990 showed the highest rate of population increase for both Lanao del Sur and Marawi City. The "re-settlement" of communities as former evacuees return to their old villages could have a huge influence on this trend.

And this one have implications on the number of registered voters in the years that followed.

A look into the statistics of registered voters for both Lanao del Sur and Marawi City for the periods 2004 and 2007 showed staggering increases: 43.9 percent and 13.7 percent, respectively.

Under the present election laws, a Filipino citizen who is at least 18 years old on an election day can vote. Those turning 18 years old on May 14 and duly registered as voter can cast a ballot.

Therefore, a child born today can become an eligible voter 18 years from now.

As such, the increase in Lanao del Sur and Marawi's number of registered voters between 2004 and 2007 can be traced 18 years back, or 1987 for 2005, 1986 for 2006, and 1989 for 2007.

But in 1989, there were only from Jan. 1 to May 14, or the first two and a half months of the year are eligible. All those who were born May 15, 1986, to Dec. 31, 1986, some seven and a half months period, who were not yet eligible to vote on May 15, 2004, but subsequently qualified to the next election. In all, that is 36 months from May 15, 1986, to May 14, 1989.

Based on the computed population growth rate of the province, 15,862 individuals were added to Lanao del Sur's population every year between 1980 and 1990. That is an average of 1,317 per month. Within the same period, 2,729 individuals are added to Marawi City's population annually, or an average of 331 per month.

Assuming such hike in the people source is wholly from the birth cohort, those voters for the May 14 midterm polls have between May 15, 1986, to May 14, 1989, are as follows: Lanao del Sur, 47,424, and Marawi City 11,196. This is arrived at by multiplying 36 months with the average monthly growth in population source.

This is easily theorized as the actual voter registrants from among the new eligible voter can be lower as a result of disinterest or simply a failure to register.

Where are the others?

The difference between the actual voters increase and the projected growth based on population figures is 73,750 for Lanao del Sur, and 6,080 for Marawi city.

Where are they? Where have they come from?

A possibility could be that among the new voters are adult migrants who are eligible to vote as they settled in Lanao del Sur and Marawi.

Another possibility is that among the new voters are individuals who became eligible to vote even prior to the 2004 or 2007 elections, but have only decided to register now.

Probing the viability of these possible explanations and identifying issues to best left to experts in sociology, demography, statistics, and retrieval fields.

But indeed, with the matter, it would help to consider added factors. One is that despite the increase by tens of thousands in the number of voters, thousands of others have been delisted from the voter's roll in their usual precincts.

Have their names been delisted, and if so, was there a convergence like the last time similar to the number of registered voters? Or could it be that their names were just transferred to a precinct unknown to them, which they cannot locate, and so making it possible for somebody else to vote for them?

It is worth noting the multitudes of non-Marawian people coming from Iligan city and neighboring areas brought in Marawi and Lanao del Sur voters on May 14.

Is Comelec now allowing nonresident voters in Lanao del Sur? Because they claimed their "ballots without" as many bitches, their names are surely in the voter's roll.

Finally, it could be that the basic thrust put forward by election monitors, the "massive rise" in the number of registered voters between 2004 and 2007, is not mysterious after all, and therefore not the real question.

The more important could be justified: That the Moroman people were now so much interested in exercising their right of suffrage then an issue that are they letting other issues hold sway for them?

Rebel leaders vow to unseat party head

By Cuda P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

TALISAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Top officials and commanders of the Sidlakang Mindanao Pambansang Mangguguyod Pilipinas and its Revolutionary Proletariat Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, Friday vowed to unseat Rtn. (lt.-d) Cesar Sindico Jr. as party chairman at a nationwide congress they will hold soon.

They said they expressed disenchantment with the party, a rebel group led by Sindico, after they learned of his "personal functioning as minister"—code to the attempted slay of Bayugan Gov. Armand Sambrano in July last year and the bombing of ex-Abra solon Candi Luna.

Ex-Governor Sulaiman, SDA-ARB spokesperson, in a statement read at the press conference said their former self-proclaimed leadership assumed to service ties with Ex-lt Cesar

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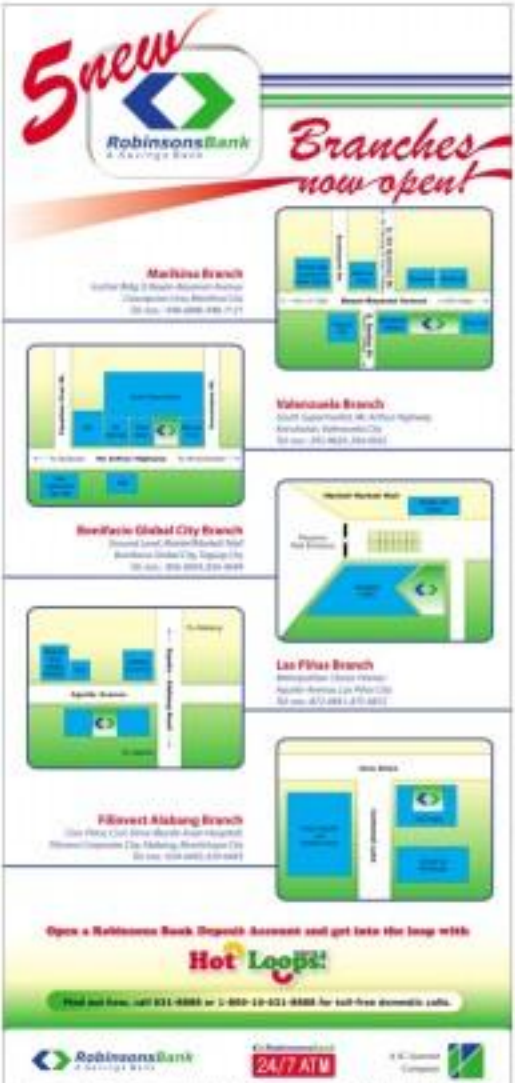

From page A1

centers, an ICT-equipped, tables and chairs, air-conditioning and one-year Internet connectivity.

Like DepEd's ALS, the project runs from May until February when students take the Accreditation and Equivalency (or A&E) test for high school. The results are released between May and June, in time for enrollment.

Passers of the examination will be awarded ALS-A&E secondary certificates, signed by the education secretary and recognized as a diploma in the formal education system.

First time

The Inquirer visited the Quezon City eSkwela at the Telecommunications Building on Roces Avenue to check out the sprawling new computer lab and the ALS modules in digitized interactive versions, and to see how perfect pants, mainly from the marginalized sectors, were responding to the project.

For Nida, "26, it was her first time to sit in front of a computer, to work her ass off to type her name, password and e-mail address—requirements to register for the eSkwela program.

At first, she couldn't get the hang of the computer mouse. She also couldn't figure out why the arrow cursor sometimes turned into a pointed or a vertical one.

In contrast, Manny, 22, and the computer keyboard were like old friends. Going through the registration process was a breeze for him.

He was already doing the pre-test that would give the readers an idea of his knowledge level. But when no one was looking, he would open another window in YouTube, and would search a video of the Black Eyed Peas.

Victoria, 42, joked about being the youngest in the group. Married with children, she said they used to have internet connection at home, which was why she knew how to e-mail and surf. But the family encountered a financial crisis, so they had to give up not only the Internet but the telephone subscription as well.

The three students have one dream—to finish high school. Nida has already inquired about a six-month caregiving course, Manny plans to become a mason, and Victoria wants to go to college now that her kids are grown.

As they go to eSkwela thrice a week for two, sometimes three, hours each session, to "learn the five strands of the ALS curriculum"—communication skills, problem solving and critical thinking, understanding the economics or productivity, development of self-confidence and sense of community, and expanding one's world vision.

Novel approach

According to the United Nations Development Program 2002-2003 studies on the Philippines, 6 out of 10 people who are officially of secondary age do not get formal education. They are already working or, worse, they are idle.

While DepEd wants to bring these people back to the formal education system, studies show that traditional full-time education does not work for these youngsters.

This is where ALS comes in. Adults and out-of-school youth can learn easy, competency-based modules for elementary and high school using alternative learning programs, and receive accreditation for at least the equivalent of an elementary or high school education.

The eSkwela provides educators opportunities to use e-learning approaches and an engaging learning experience through computers.

"We're using the same modules in ALS, but this time, they are digitized and interactive and presented in a 'tutorial way' so students can run the program. There is some supervision at the beginning, but ultimately they can learn the lessons on their own," she says.

The advantages of eSkwela are many. Students can come at their convenience to the center and do the lessons at their own pace. Based on the student's pace, the teacher can tell if he/she is learning too fast or too slow. Also, working with a computer gives students additional skills needed in the workplace.

Yet you fear in the future and with additional funding, the digitized modules will be available in class, so students can do the lessons at home or in an Internet cafe.

Tan and her staff composed of Mejia, Adrian Dilala and, of late, Jose Feliciano Jusaf, are working on digitizing additional modules and making eSkwela available online.

Two teachers

In the Quezon City pilot school, the students are guided by teachers Jean Ubarra and Irene Bantaga and Alejandra Mendiola, who is in charge of the ALS program at the Jose A. Rocca Science and Technology High School.

Ubarra and Bantaga have been teaching ALS using print modules since the program started in 2004. No eSkwela, they attended seminars to familiarize themselves with the new software.

They also learned how to enhance learning through the use of educational tools and resources available on the Internet and chose to "publish" these instructional materials in the digitized modules.

"We used to make our own visuals, using Power Point and cartolina. Now we can search open-source sites and download for free illustrations, videos and other teaching aids which students find more interesting than reading the lessons in print," Ubarra says.

Bantaga says she was able to demonstrate in teachers' math quizzes presented like a game. Here her students actually look forward to solving math problems.

As in a formal school setting, there are quizzes after the lesson and discussions between teachers and students—but these are all done on the Net.

And just like any new project, there are glitches. "We are slowly discovering them," Ubarra says. "For instance, some students don't like to ask questions when faced with new technology."

Vine problem I see is that some students don't read instructions. Bantaga says. "They just click on to the next chapter not knowing what to do. They have to read the instructions first."

Comparison

But do the participants learn more with eSkwela than with the traditional chalk-and-blackboard method?

Nida says she misses the teachers explaining the lessons: "It's different when someone explains it to you."

Victoria says she likes doing the lessons on the computer because it allows her to learn at her own pace: "I like to figure things on my own, rather than have teachers tell me what to memorize."

Manny likes YouTube, which he is not allowed to access during class. He got a scolding from his teacher for this, just like in a regular classroom.

Even in this digital age, some things never change.

To register at the eSkwela in Quezon City, go to the Telecommunications Bldg. on Roces Ave. (across Bandara and Philtoa) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on other ALS centers, call the DepEd ALS Central Office at 633-1346.

Money, fake and real, talk of (some) towns in Bohol

From page A1

dommercials, president of the LMP and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, said he was only waiting for the release of project funds from Malacañang after sending a Commission on Elections-certified copy of final tabulations in the senatorial race from the 18 municipalities.

In the capital city, however, talk was about a different sort of money.

Counterfeit P1,000 and P500 bills were discovered to have been deposited in at least four banks: Allied Bank, City Savings Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Cooperative Bank of Bohol.

In time for election?

DBP alone had nine fake P1,000 bills and four fake P500 bills.

The counterfeit money has been presented to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas investigator Andres Caranguil. The fake bills will be brought to the BSP for examination, Caranguil said.

The discovery of the fake money, which turned up right after the May 14 elections, spurred speculation here that it was used to buy votes.

Before the elections, the police in Central Visayas had tailed the public to sensitize them 99,000 bills, amid reports that counterfeit currency were being distributed in the region in time for the elections, purportedly for vote-buying activities.

Measles was buying in Bohol, where some candidates reportedly shelled out P500 to P1,000 for each vote, alarmed even the Catholic Church.

The Bohol Bishops Association also issued a public advisory on the proliferation of the fake bills.

Vote-buying was observed in the hotly contested senatorial contests in Tagbilaran City and the towns of Panglao, Trinidad, Loay, Alburquerque and Candijay.

Team Unity swept all 12 known seats in elections in Tubigon, Talibon, Ubay, Inabanga and Getafe. The towns of Buhlihan, Antequera, Sagbayan, Ubi and Jetafe had losses all gave TU an 11-1 result.

Cesar Montano takes Bohol

In the province-wide Governor count (one city and 47 towns), Bohol-ano movie actor Cesar Montano (369,887 votes) received the most votes, ahead of six other candidates from TU, four from the Genuine Opposition and one independent.

The other winning provincial candidates in Bohol include Rep. Prospero Pichay (234,794 votes), Rep. Edgardo Chatto (228,451), Rep. Miguel Rene (198,813), Sen. Edgar Jerusalem (195,955), Lovely Lagunda (191,234), Vice Ralph Recto (168,813), Sen. Manuel Villar (159,555), Michael Defensor (158,519), Francis Pangilinan (154,281), Francis Escudero (136,869) and Benigno Aquino III (101,648).

Late SPORTS

GAMES TODAY (Thailand time)
4 p.m.—RP-San Miguel vs Malaysia
6 p.m.—Indonesia vs Thailand

Hot Bulls rout Aces

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)

3 p.m. — Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia Realty
8:30 p.m. — Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel Beer

BACOLOD CITY—CHRIS BACHO CAME UP with the crucial plays at crunchtime.

And it helped Red Bull back into the driver's seat of the Talk 'N Text PBA Fiesta Conference with a 113-102 victory over Alaska last night.

Bacho sparked a telling 16-4 blast that took the fight out of the Aces as the Bulls regained the sole leadership by nailing their 12th victory with only a match left in the elimination round.

The win also assured the Bulls of at least a playoff for one of the two outright semifinal slots as the Aces fell to 11-6 behind the Barangay Ginebra Kings, who have a chance to tie for second today.

The San Kings battle the defending champion Miguel Beermen at 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum hoping to match Red Bull's fourteen-win 11-5 record.

The Talk 'N Text Phone Pals (10-6) try to stay in contention tomorrow when they go up against the Sta. Lucia Realtors earlier at 4 p.m.

James Yeney paced the Bulls with 22 points to preserve Bacho's brilliant show in the final period as the delighted a full house crowd at the Bacolod-Negros College gymnasium. —Dana Manzanza

TEN POINTS

Red Bull—63—Yeney 22, Bugia 10, Tenorio 10, Castillejos 9, Hontiveros 8, Dupia 6, Ingolania, Reinhardt, Alvarez 2, Cruz 0, Rivera 0, Rantis 0.

Alaska—102—Slaton 23, Cortez 13, Lanete 12, Capacio 11, Espinosa 11, Fajardo 9, Custodio, Yap 8, Jurgens 7, Aurin 4, Alonzo 3, Dela 2.

Quarters: 24-18, 51-52, 82-82, 113-102.

KEMBEL Ildefonzo (left) and Danny Ildefonzo will play pivotal roles for San Miguel against Barangay Ginebra tonight. —PHOTO BY JOAN BONDOC

Sports editor Larry Galvez, 61

PICNIC "Larry" L. Galvez Jr., former sportswriter and editor and alumnus editor-in-chief of the Philippine Sports Weekly, died on Friday at the National Kidney Institute. He was 61. He is survived by wife Regina Hernandez; children Isabella, Peter Paul, Lucas and Salvador; uncle Ricardo Galvez; brother Carlos; the brothers of the Fraternitas Societas Apostolic Inc. (Societas) Fr. Salvador with his 47 p.m. on Sunday, May 28, after a memorial Mass. Galvez was sports editor of the journalism fraternity Sigma Delta Chi. He resigned as sports editor of the magazine Sports Weekly in protest of Boxing Czar Rudy Salas's decision to spare perennial champion. He was then sportswriter's choice who wrote both what was to become the Unique Olympic in the PBA. After Boxing's death in 1998, Galvez returned to his first love as editor of the sports magazine, Sports Weekly. But falling eyesight caused by diabetes forced Galvez into retirement.

RP five shoots down Indons

By Francis Cielos

RATCHABURI, THAILAND—DURING A FELLOWSHIP DINNER held Friday, the entire Indonesian basketball team took the stage and belted out their rendition of "I believe I can fly."

Less than 24 hours later, the RP-Sun Miguel squad brought the Indonesians back hard to the ground.

The Filipinos pounced on a shocked-looking Indon squad that didn't look like it came in the game actually believing it could win, hammering out an 85-48 victory Saturday night to take the solo lead in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) men's championship at the Southwest gymnasium here.

It was the second straight victory for the 10 Indons. And although they polished off a scrappy Singapore squad earlier by 97 (point), it was this win that looked like it was handed on a silver platter.

Indonesia's offensive pattern was confused on nothing the dribble, as opponent play to keep the score—and the losing dribble—at a minimum. But the Indons capped those offensive threats usually with long jumpers, giving the Philippines long rebounds off misses, allowing it to score another fastbreak play for the second period.

"Indonesia came up with a great game plan," said RP coach Chot Reyes. "They held the game close."

From the stands, coach Luis Alas had a somewhat observations.

"They weren't playing basketball, they just wanted to make sure they lost by a small margin," said Alas, who said it himself, is coaching the opposition for December's Southeast Asian Games.

Mark Caguioa topscored for the Philippines with 23 points. His split free throw early in the second period gave RP the Miguel its first double-digit spread, 23-13.

The play worked as far as spoiling the Indons' plan of keeping the scores close. Tenacious and long defense limited the RP-Sun Miguel to one more shot and helped the Nationals put the lead in the fourth, 77-41, three minutes left to play.

A former Ritualo eight-a minute later gave the Philippines its biggest lead, 80-45.

The Philippines takes on Malaysia at 4 p.m. today, gunning for a third straight win that will book the country a slot in the 40th-man men's championship this July. That tournament serves as the qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Malaysians bounced back from an opening day loss to Indonesia to crush Singapore, 87-55, earlier and improve to 2-1. The Malaysians conquered host Thailand, 72-67, Friday.

Games: Yesterday's game was overshadowed by a throng of fans wanting autographs when dressed for lunch the moment it stepped in the court. The gallery outdoor basketball courts and stairs as the RP-Indonesia match-ups and mauled by beggars there were three RP-Colombia event set for highlight matchups. ... Navy Jose Cruz arrived yesterday and replaced for Nationals-Jake on Indonesia. The outstanding forward, who was a member of the RP squad in the 2005 SEA Games, replaced by Daniels in the tournament.

Tenorio.

RP-SAN MIGUEL (85)—Caguioa 23, Seaba 11, Cagulo 8, Ildefonzo 8, De Ocampo 6, Reyes 6, Ildefonzo 5, Ildefonzo 4, Ildefonzo 3, Ildefonzo 2, Ildefonzo 1, Seaba 1, Cagulo 1.

INDONESIA (48)—Tobal 10, Caguioa 8, Caguioa 7, Ildefonzo 6, Ildefonzo 5, Ildefonzo 4, Ildefonzo 3, Ildefonzo 2, Ildefonzo 1, Seaba 1, Cagulo 1.

Quarters: 19-13, 37-23, 58-41, 85-48.

Laughter the best ...

From page A1

His mother's cousin had the same skin problem, he said.

A different look

When the de-coloration spread around his lips and below the cheeks, he said he started feeling "insecure."

"It bothers me. It's not [because] I want a change in the way I look[,]" said Pueblo. His cheeks "look" (brother pinch) easier he was hurt. some during his younger years in the minority.

The case to his skin disorder, he said, was "taxing."

"I was made to go under the sun for 30 minutes between six and nine in the morning, up[ply Ambiosan][Indian drug] go under the sun again for another 30 minutes," he said.

But he gave up, saying, "Gusto ko ako ito with all the natives in the ganoon?"

No time to bread

Guagua is a town of more than 100,000 people who are mostly Catholics. Aside from attending to their spiritual needs through the celebration of the sacraments, Pueblo organized basic ecclesiastical communities and spent more time organizing the youth.

The church also draws tourists, being one of 18 churches in the country declared as national cultural treasures.

Built in the early 1700s, the church in Guagua was repaired several times throughout the 1800s.

The retablo (main altar) has ornate sculptures and images of saints. The paintings on the ceiling have been compared to those in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

Instead of brooding about his looks, Pueblo said, "I just accepted it."

Disinformation

But then, the white spots also drew the attention of some people, who gave him various stares. At one point, he went to see Cash Jingco, a pediatrician in her late 20s who also has the same skin disorder.

"She consoled me, (so) said I should not be bothered by it. 'Bhai girl has lots of self confidence,'" Pueblo said.

He is not bothered anymore because "when you're older, adolescence, you physical appearance, should be the noteworth of a person," he said. "It doesn't mean anything to me anymore."

Turning after chemical campaigns, however, his critics made out some of his skin disorder. A flyer claimed it was a manifestation of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), which causes the dreaded AIDS. He could not tell which of his rivals spread this "false information."

During the nationwide in 20 towns and in this city, his doctor sprayed his mesomeres with a medicated lotion to protect him from the harmful sun.

By his doctor's reckoning, Pueblo's health is "OK."

Loads of laughter

This was not the case before he threw himself into the race in response to the clamor of Catholic lay people, who pushed him to run because they wanted an alternative to then administration Gov. Hilarion Ramiro Jr. Barangay Board Member Lilia Pineda.

In March just before the race, his uric acid was over the limit and his cholesterol level shot up to 286.

He has since lost 20 pounds from the kilograms and now packs 160 pounds in his 5-foot, 11-and-a-half frame.

Pueblo plans to resume playing tennis in January. He says his preference in the game is "Mr." In the meantime, that remains "always laughing."

Pueblo also misses playing basketball with the young men in Brgy. Bel Air but finds of laughter, which his doctors call the best medicine.

IN THE KNOW

'Michael Jackson Disease'

By Lawrence de Guzman
Inquirer Research

KNOWN AS THE "MICHAEL JACKSON DISease," vitiligo is a skin disorder characterized by depigmented white spots on different parts of the body as a result of the destruction of melanocytes, the cells that produce the skin color.

There is no known cause for vitiligo, but the widely accepted view is it happens when a person's immune system reacts against the body's own organs or tissues. The World Health Organization says.

The disease usually starts as fair white patches on the hands or around the eyes and nose in the same areas on both sides of the body, progressing to symmetrical effect. It is not contagious and most patients have a normal appearance of the disease with brown and beige patches. For some, however, the spots just disappear.

Prone to sunburn

About one percent of the world's population have vitiligo, and they are advised to use sunscreen because they are prone to sunburn and skin cancer.

There is no known cure for the disease, but some patients are undergoing to cover the white spots, while others seek treatments such as repigmentation through a series of ultraviolet light treatments and surgical transplant of melanocytes.

In severe cases, when over half of the body is depigmented, the only option is bleaching the entire skin to make the skin color more uniform. Some patients, who have had vitiligo for many years, have also called this procedure.

This gives the color a dark appearance that makes patients with vitiligo look like Michael Jackson.

2 witnesses of Sulu election fraud surface

By Norman Bordadora

TURF ONES WANTED TO GO HOME TO SULU as soon but they ended up being participants in a massive electoral fraud in the province.

The Sulunesses Benjamin Inlaesan and Norhassan Undaweni said they left Zamboanga City on May 12 so they would vote in Sulugalan Cotabato town in Sulu.

But they found themselves till ing out ballots their boxes early in the last but they did so, perhaps, for reasons of an entire hangover.

The two allegedly were on the ballots the names of incumbent Sulu Rep. Munsur Asbimon Zaldan Second Municipal Dato Ji-ain, Jamil Ji-ain, while under the supervision of the Commission on Elections municipal officer, Hadji Hakiben Kasan.

The fishermen have executed a joint affidavit in support of the opposition's bid to have the election results in Sulu nullified based on "widespread fraud and irregularities" held in many parts of the province.

"The affiant's left Zamboanga City on the 12th of May 2007 to vote their votes in their Municipal Sulugalan Cotabato, Sulu and arrived on said barangay on the 13th of May 2007," the witnesses said in their joint affidavit.

Upon their arrival, they said they were summoned to the residence of a certain Hajiya Hakun, the barangay chief of the neighboring Barangay Pi'ops. Hakun is

This woman goes where men ...

From page A1

office but signals of armed men roving Sultan Mastura, where the canvassing would be held, had sent the mayor hiding out.

The job was next offered to another male lawyer who declined the offer for the same reason.

Up to the challenge

Finally, the task was offered to the then budding, lawyer-to-be Dr Mesa who immediately said yes.

If she had survived a 10-day assassination the 2004 elections in Iloilo, where the Iloilo City mayor group was then running for, "how could I not endure a safer place like Sharriff Kabunsuan," Dr Mesa said.

She was the PROC chair in Iloilo during the 2004 presidential elections. The situation then was so volatile, a gunfight could erupt between warring parties at any time and for no reason.

"I was praying hard that I would not be caught in the middle of a fight and that I would not be harmed," Dr Mesa told the Inquirer.

The photo lawyer has been flying to MSMM districts tasked as "election lawyers" for the past three elections.

During the 2005 ARMM election, she administered the canvassing in Maguindanao, now the subject of a Gudelio investigation by alleged massive poll fraud. She also gathered vote tallies in Lanao del Sur during the 2004 elections.

Asked if the frigs ruined Dr Mesa had a death wish, she said: "No, but I desire in advenuture."

Through the years, her two married daughters have learned to accept this.

"When they found I was going to Sharriff Kabunsuan they didn't want me to go. But they admitted that they couldn't stop me," Dr Mesa said.

Wary

She said she got her spunk working two decades for a bus company which exposed her to grave vehicular accidents and forced her to travel to the countryside nursing with rebels of the New People's Army.

Before these were road mishaps in serving the bus company, she would rush to the scene to render accident reports and assist the injured, Dr Mesa related.

"I was always being sent to counsels areas on I prepped a lot. I know that I would not be harmed if I was doing the right thing," she said.

Her father was born in Camalig, Albay, while her mother was Waray.

"She would explain where she got her temper. "You know how Warays can be," she said in jest.

In 1992, Dr Mesa, already in her 40s, decided to work for the Comelec. She was not yet a lawyer then.

"I wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer after high school. But my father suggested I take up a shorter course because my brothers and sisters were still studying," she explained.

Before Dr Mesa, she stated in a total of 12, graduated with degrees in medical technology and political science.

Her first job was with a radio outwork in Naga City, which lands good

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From the ranks

Dr Mesa obtained a law degree in 1996 and passed the bar exams the same year.

Rising from the ranks at the Comelec, she started getting assignments as election lawyer. Atty Norma Kandis re-administer the canvassing of election returns. Then came the more risky jobs, which she accepted without hesitation.

She said how she felt about her trips to MSMM Indonesia tomorrow morning. Dr Mesa said: "Gosh, if political families are feuding there, I said believe they will not involve us in their quarrels, as long as we act within the bounds of the law."

It was Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, who is in charge of ARMM, who asked Dr Mesa to head the canvassing in Sharriff Kabunsuan.

"I said, 'No problem,'" she told the Inquirer in an earlier interview. Because she said yes almost immediately, she is now known as the Comelec's "gutsy lady."

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LAKAS NG GLOBE

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Discovering Makati City's rich, colorful heritage

AN ARTIFACT, that of Ayala Avenue in 1913.

By DJ Yap

TO CITY DWELLERS, MAKATI EVOKES images of tall buildings, businesses in suits and a sleek gray skyscraper—all things new acquisition and new. But once upon a time, Makati was a swamp[land].

In fact, while traveling up the Pasig River sometime in the 16th century, Spanish explorer Miguel Lopez de Legazpi took note good luck in the place and dismissed it as "worthless."

"This is an epic story, makes it [?], named Makati its first mention in history" wrote Manuel Buhahao in "A 'worthless' beginning?" one of the essays in a coffee table book to be launched by the city government next month.

On June 1, Makati, now the city of ultramodern life and living, will proudly mark its 107th anniversary, a good time to remember its heritage.

The book, "From Sampaloc to Makati: A Community's Journey of Faith, and Struggle," does just that. A compilation of historical and old and current by four writers, the book takes readers back to the post-Asian pre-colonial era to World War II and Makati's rise as the country's financial capital.

The book will be launched and distributed to guests during the annual [illegible] reception on Foundation Day, according to Makati public-affairs chief Joey Salgado, the project's director and editor.

Not for sale

All 2,000 copies of the book are not for sale, Salgado said, copies would be sent to all schools in the city. "If there is a demand, we will publish a softbound edition next year," he said.

The books contains essays—most of them published before—by Bobbit, Prof. Elmer Ocampo, Rosalio Bernabe and ng Pilipinas (Central Bank) curt Jaime Laya, and National Artist for literature Nick Joaquin. The photographs come from the collections of the FIL [illegible] Library and the Museo ng Makati.

"Makati is a modern, progressive city that has deep roots, so we want residents to see that their home is very colorful and very rich in cultural heritage," Salgado told the Inquirer.

"In this world that is very fast-paced, very modern, the first casualty would be heritage. We don't want all of these things to be lost to modernity," he added.

The book, Salgado said, seeks to educate Makati residents about the city's history. For instance, few people know how the city got its name.

In Bobbit's essay, one account traced back the name to a simple case of miscommunication between Legazpi and natives of local chieftain.

A case of miscommunication

Aside from Bobbit's essay, the project [illegible] Buhahao, who [illegible] was the project [illegible] of "a place full of kites" or "kalaki."

A full section of the book is devoted to the history of the city's oldest Christian churches—the Iglesia Inang de Gracia in Guadalupe and the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, or San Pedro y Pablo Nuevo.

It also details the wartime exploits of Gen. Fredolfo Mac, particularly the war installation of the Guerrilla Brigade in the Battle of Santo Tomas during the Philippine-American War and the resurrection of the brigade two weeks later.

Lastly, it describes the city's transformation from a backwood town to an urban center after World War II in the essay titled "Rising From the Rubble."

Recently reelected Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in his introduction to the book, said "From Sampaloc to Makati" would offer readers a view of the city's rich and colorful heritage.

"As Makati continues to ride the crest of progress driven by modern technology, its people have managed to hold on to its characteristic traditions and traditions," he said. "And this is what gives Makati its soul."

With Kimberly Jiao

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"I DON'T HAVE FUN AT THE SHOW," SAID DOMINO. "I'm a magician. I have so many domestic helpers in the audience. I don't dwell on the fact that so many of them may be experiencing abuse. That would ruin my act. I'm taking care of my friends. We are here to make them happy."

NANETTE RIVENTOR, Inquirer.net, November 2006

GLOBAL Pinoy

John Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas living on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes in the world, and whenever work can be contracted to answer a need for the host nation. These are their stories.

Ex-FX driver working to become priest in Washington

Dean Ipanag has worked hard in the US to send his children to school. Now he's getting himself an education—in theology and parish service

By Christian V. Esguerra

DEAN FERNANDEZ IPANAG, who describes himself as the St. Nicholas parish "chimay," has already completed a four-year program for parish service and has a pending application to become a deacon.

WASHINGTON—DEAN FERNANDEZ Ipanag never missed many feasts in the Americana regional parish owned by his flower-delivery man, musician, driver, or simply the Pinoy businessman working step away to make an honest living.

Little do his friends in Washington know that the 48-year-old, former FX taxi driver from Olongapo City has simply unselfishly been pursuing his one, distant urge: He wants to become a priest.

In fact, he already has a pending application to become a deacon, a ministry common among older men here.

Dean has also completed the Administrative Parish Director course, an intensive course for adult Catholics working "theological, scriptural and pastoral education."

He learned through the four-year program in just two years, guided by top American theologians at the Trinity University here.

"I really want to serve the Lord in whatever way I can," he told the Inquirer in an interview.

He said not only does he have support here, she may even push him in dedicating his thoughts to God.

But longer conversations with him show he is knowledgeable in matters like church history, apologetics (defense of the Catholic faith), and even homiletics (the art of preaching).

The business man from during the Kamundalan Country Days era, professed by Domingo Israel Bolmer Dizon at the Georgia Pacific Augusta University here early this month. It featured the APO Hiking Society Nazarite Ministries and Heart Evangelicals.

Dean volunteered to sell tickets for the concerts and drive the celebrities around the region.

Making himself available for friends is one of his personality traits on his road to priesthood.

Dean says he makes himself available, too, for whatever help he can extend to Catholic communities in the area. He's worked for a number of youth and marriage encounters, and the Light is the Spirit Seminar.

Giving back

Three years ago, he says he gave a sermon on the gifts of the Holy Spirit during a retreat of St Gladden members in Virginia.

Involving himself in incomprehensible work is his personal mystery is his way of giving back the many adult blessings he's never failed to notice all his life.

Back in Manila, he used to drive an FX taxi plying the Commonwealth-Manila Lucas Eastern route. He was also a one-time computer programmer before working as a soft-drinks agent and later, as dealer.

As an FX driver, he says he earned only around P1,000 after a hard day's work. The amount made it practically impossible for any man to support four children, but Dean got help from his father and a barkalter brother.

He was active in ministry at the Ateneo Prayer and Praise Group in Makati and some charismatic groups.

"Back then, I really felt that God was always guiding me and my family," he says.

Divine providence

But Dean also knows that divine providence worked well only for those who helped themselves.

As early as 1998, he says he'd have trying to get a higher paying job overseas.

Seven times he was denied entry to the United States until a priest helped him find work at St. Nicholas Church in Laurel, Maryland.

He says he was so happy with the job award (he did not pay him a lot, because he got to go to Mass every day.

His main job is "nursery management"—a euphemism, he quips, for "cleaning."

"I do practically everything here, except, of course, saying Mass," he jokes. "I'm the housekeeper, driver, caretaker, and administrator."

He used to cook, too, until he was banished from the job by the former parish priest, an erstwhile Army chaplain. "He said it cost him enough to cut that! It's not fun!" he recalls fondly now.

All else he'll dabble in if only to support his family.

This means taking on odd jobs after his nine-to-five shift at St. Nicholas. Once, home-service massage for a family of six kept him up till 2 a.m.

Or, Saturdays, he delivers flowers for an insurance business. Sometimes, on top of being a Knot enthusiast picking up "bulk-buyer" loans.

But all this hard work allowed him to bring in his mom Hope, now 59, and Butch, 17, to live with him in their basement apartment in Silver Spring. They're enrolled at the nearby Wheaton High School.

His eldest daughter's situation was almost jeopardized by a protocol glitch! Since back in Manila, Fortunately, Dean's hard work home-rules were paid off.

Risner, 30, has finished a degree on early childhood education at De La Salle. She is set to join her father later this year after she's taken her board exams.

Much-awaited reunion

Another daughter, 19-year-old Emilyn—and her mother—will join the family, too, for a much awaited reunion tentatively set in October.

Dean walks around with a slight limp. Polio attack he was young (left him unable to walk left leg. This shifted his weight to right solely on the right for as long as he could remember. Five years ago, the right leg gave up and he could have been crippled.

Doctors here were able to fix the right leg. He can walk more easily now although there is the occasional stumbling moment.

"I can live with that," he says. "This is not a big deal considering everything that God has given me."

It's no small wonder, he says, Dan despite the hardships, he found several jobs in the US.

"It's not really difficult to find business needs here as long as you're willing and actually looking for one," he says.

Take it from Dean who couldn't even buy a scooter back in Manila. He now drives a brand-new Toyota Matrix equipped with a global positioning system.

Years from now, when he's traded his workman's clothes for white alba, his stories from the pulpit will resonate with firsthand accounts of how miracles work for those who believe.

VINA PARDES is an INQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Qantas Media Award for NZ-based Filipino journalist

FILIPINO JOURNALIST DIVINA C. Paredes has been named the best magazine feature writer in the information and communications technology category of the recent 34th Qantas Media Awards in New Zealand.

Paredes, editor of CIO New Zealand magazine, was cited for her article entitled "On the leading edge," an interview with Brett Houston, former chief technology officer of Weta Digital, the special effects company founded by Kiwi director Peter Jackson of "Lord of the Rings" and "King Kong."

Houston now heads the New Zealand Supercomputing Centre.

The article appeared in IDG Magazine, which for since merged with CIO New Zealand magazine, and is published by IDG Communications.

It is the second journalism award for Paredes, who was also named the inaugural Dyanda Syvanga Hi-Tech Journalist of the Year during ceremonies held by PetroMin Group Corp. in Auckland in November 2006.

MIS Magazine was also named the best trade professional magazine during the 2005 Qantas Media Awards.

Paredes has been editor of MIS New Zealand, now known as CIO Magazine, since 2004.

She graduated in New Zealand in 2000 after completing her master of international studies at the University of Sydney. She also studied journalism at New York University, where she was a Fulbright scholar.

Paredes is a contributor to the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Otoño Filipino, the newspaper of the Filipino community in New Zealand.

After 27 years, time to relax

Retired school teacher Thelma Tolentino loves old Tagalog soap operas and weekends in Atlantic City's gaming resorts

By Christian V. Esguerra

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—Every day around a few years ago, Thelma and Orlando Valentino spend much of their week at the Tropicana, the biggest resort casino in the area. They often catch a movie at the nearby Showcase Cinema Mall or simply lumber around their two-story house in Jersey City.

A former public school teacher from Malabon, Thelma, 65, retired with a Trillion Pensions (Japan's Govt. gets VIP treatment at Tropicana's expensive buffet restaurant where she allots gets with her friends.

But far from the video poker machines is bubbly Orlando, 69, a certified public accountant.

There other favorite pastimes: Tagalog soap operas like Darna; Fernando's Box action flicks for the hands.

For people viewing the couple's life from the outside, retirement life probably can't get any better than this.

To begin with, the Valentinos are on high-stakes gamblers. The few dollars they throw away here and there is their way of pampering themselves after more than two decades of hard work.

Never easy

"The weekends for 27 years and this never seem easy," Thelma says while giving the lessons an impromptu tour of Tropicana's many floors.

She was to attend the Ramon Magsaysay Award ceremonies in Manila on August 31, 1981, when she was informed that she was pregnant with her first child. Thelma says. "We had to do everything on our own."

In 1974, Thelma got a better job, a desired position at the old Republic National Bank on 5th Avenue across the Hudson River. Aside from the peak oddities, the bank gave her the opportunity to rise in seniority.

Now still

The new skill added more value to her resume until she retired 23 years later.

Orlando, on the other hand, moved from the mortgage company in Long Island to the Administrative Bank, also in the Big Apple, as assistant accountant. In the 1980s, he joined his wife at the Republic National Bank.

Meanwhile, their two girls were growing up, says Thelma.

"My husband and I were not exactly strict," she says. "But we were concerned about their need to maintain their Filipino culture."

Perhaps that was why parental upbringing against premarital sex, a danger quite pronounced in western society.

Fortunately, both Claire and Chassidy never failed their parents.

Claire, who finished a degree in business administration, married another Filipino and has a 7-year-old son. Chassidy finished a course in biology at the New Jersey State College and now stays with her older sister in Washington.

Thelma and Orlando visit their grandson at least once a week.

The hard tasks are basically over now—no more agonizing drives to Long Island, late night work at some obscure warehouse, or numerous overtimes.

The old-timers, though, aren't just watching the sunset.

But they're having the time of their lives, banking a few dollars in the casinos then enjoying a quiet stroll down the Atlantic City Boardwalk.

THELMA TOLENTINO worked the night shift at a department store and took babysitting jobs for four years before she landed a good job in a bank.

US objects to G8's global warming declaration

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States has raised new serious objections to a proposed global warming declaration prepared by Germany for next month's Group of Eight summit, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Citing documents obtained by the newspaper, the report said officials representing the administration of President George W. Bush rejected the idea of setting mandatory emission targets as well as language calling for G8 nations to raise overall energy efficiency by 20 percent by 2020.

With just three (sic) weeks remaining before the June 6 to 8 summit, the climate document is the only unresolved issue in the statements the world leaders are expected to sign there, said the report, citing sources close to the talks.

Representatives from the world's leading industrial nations met the past two days in Heiligendamm, Germany to negotiate over German Chancellor Angela Merkel's proposed climate statement.

A call for limiting the world's wide temperature rise this century to 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit and setting global greenhouse gas emissions to 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

"The US still has serious, fundamental concerns about this draft statement," The Post quoted a document dated May 14 as saying.

"The treatment of climate change runs counter to our overall position and crosses multiple 'red lines' in terms of what we can simply cannot agree to. ... We have tried to 'tread lightly' but there is only so far we can go given our fundamental opposition to the German position." The most recent draft, dated May 24, stresses that the two sides still remain at odds, the paper said.

While Germany has offered to allow language identifying a rise in global temperatures of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit as a dangerous tipping point and forecast to accept a Russian proposal that can pass a range from 2.7 to 4.3 degrees, the United States has yet to accept the modified language.

The Post said that the United States also remains opposed to a statement that reads, "We acknowledge that the UN climate process is an appropriate forum for negotiating future global action on climate change." AFP

CHILDREN sleep behind a stack of earthenpots used for storing water in the outskirts of Ahmedabad, India, on May 24. Climate change may lead to severe flood and water shortages for an extra 120 million people across Asia by 2050 unless international action is urgently taken, according to a UN report. —

Warming threatens Arctic glaciers

MONTREAL—WARMING IN Canada's far north is melting glaciers that threaten to split two massive Ontario and Baffin islands, a Canadian researcher told AFP ON Friday, after logging an iceberg on huge Manitoba.

Geologist Luke Copland of the University of Ottawa, and his colleague Derek Mueller of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, visited Ayles Ice Island this week to install beacons as follow-up to measurements through the Arctic Ocean.

"On Monday, we landed on the ice island and (installed) a satellite tracking beacon, so we can track where the ice island (goes), and a temperature sensor, which every hour will record the temperature," Copland told AFP.

The 10.5-by-5km slab of ice had split from Canada's Ellesmere Island close to Greenland in August 2005, but was only identified last January.

The break was so violent that it caused tremors that were detected by Canadian seismographs 250 km away, but at the time no one was able to pinpoint what had happened.

Copland, who accompanied the chunk of ocean by plotting together data from the seismic readings and satellite images, had said when the discovery was announced in December, the rupture was the "biggest in 25 years" in the world.

After visiting the island for the first time this week, he said: "We really need to see it. Normally Arctic ice ice has a very, very rough surface ... but this piece is just so big, it's flat and smooth."

According to the Canadian ice forecast, relying on satellite images, the island has traveled less than 100 km to the south since its rupture, but has been stuck in an ice field in recent months.

The satellite may troubled on the island will track its movements as it drifts toward open water, where it could pose a danger to offshore oil rigs.

"We know roughly that it will drift to the west and that it's driven by the ocean current, but beyond that we don't know how long will it take to reach Alaska. It might take five years, 10 years, we don't know exactly," Copland said.

The Earth's polar regions have been most affected by warming, believed to be caused by greenhouse gas emissions, with temperatures in the Arctic rising twice as fast as elsewhere over the past century. AFP

SAJUDIN in May 25, 1995 photo. —

In US towns, wind power is stymied by zoning rules

MELISSA, TEXAS—MO ORANGE flag marks "where Gary Link" planned to put up a 35-meter windmill behind his house. But that is about as far as his green idea got in this Dallas suburb.

Instead a budding power in Marth, Link joined the growing ranks of frustrated homeowners across the US whose hopes of harvesting wind energy in their backyards have been dashed. Some communities have outlawed undesired turbines. Others entangle applicants in so much red tape that they simply give up.

"The fact is, we're dealing with ignorance," said Link, whose windmill would resemble a big pinwheel with three small blades spinning atop a flagpole.

Standoffs between cities and green-minded homeowners are becoming more common as interest grows in residential turbines. Fueled by worries in the US over rising conventional energy costs and a greater push to embrace environmentally friendly alternative power sources.

Backyard windmills are already an $18 million-a-year industry in the US, and manufacturers think that could triple if wind got the same social acceptance and federal incentives as solar energy systems, which typically involve nothing more intrusive than panels on the roof.

Zoning boards and neighborhood associations have banned windmills that the windmills would be unsightly, that the blades could break loose and fly into someone's yard, that a tornado could knock a pole down or send it flying like a missile, or that the spinning blades would make too much noise. Unlike big industrial-sized turbines, the backyard varieties are barely audible.)

"Planning and zoning are the single biggest obstacle to wind energy today," said Nora Mead Brownell, a member of the Texas Renewable Energy in New York. AP

China suspends maglev run

SHANGHAI—CHINA HAS shelved a planned magnetic levitation rail route linking the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou partly due to concerns among residents that the trains would emit radiation, state media reported on Saturday.

The report came as Shanghai's talks with German suppliers, including Siemens A.G., to extend the high-speed line to neighboring Hangzhou are already complicated by recent accidents involving maglev trains and cost concerns.

Xinhua news agency said thousands of residents living along the proposed route had been petitioning for a suspension of the $4.5 billion project, fearing the high-speed trains would produce radiation.

"The local government has been under huge pressure over the past months with mounds of petitioners knocking at their doors every day and thousands of complaints received online," Xinhua said.

Xinhua quoted an unidentified official of the Shanghai government as saying that the project had been "suspended" in line with the arrangements of the municipal government.

Approved by the central government in March 2006, the planned 15-billion-yuan ($4.5 billion) maglev project was designed to have a length of 168 km and trains on the track will run at a maximum speed of 430 km per hour. Reuters

MOVING FEAT

Riggers watch The Big Movies mobile attraction moving down the Hume Highway to its new location south of Goulburn on May 24. It took nearly two hours to transport the 50-ton, 15-meter-high, 18-meter-long caravan and retail-shop landmark. (600 meters away, the Guinness World Records 'Big Merino' is one of an estimated 146 "Big Things" throughout Australia. —

Coke takes $4-B step away from carbonation

IF YOU SET UP A LEMONADE STAND THIS weekend, you might consider offering to something a little different.

Look what happened to J. Darius Bikoff. Bikoff, 39, a former Coke exec, says he noticed that his blood drinking water with a vitamin C tablet after he had exercised.

With the help of beverage experts, Bikoff started making his own water-based beverage, spiked with vitamins, which became the popular Vitaminwater. On Friday, he sold the drink maker to Coca-Cola Co. for $4.1 billion in cash. Initial costs for a company whose products are not yet readily available all across the country.

Glaceau—the maker of Vitaminwater, a flavored water with vitamins—doubled in sales last year and is expected to surpass $1 billion in sales by the next few years.

As more and more consumers shift away from soda, drawn to a growing demand for innovative beverages, particularly if they offer health benefits. Of the overall market limited water and other noncarbonated drinks comprise 31.5 percent of the $200 billion nonalcoholic beverage industry.

Friday's deal offered the most compelling evidence yet that consumers are moving away from soda, or putting a new twist on an old one, can be lucrative. Shares of companies similar to Glaceau have surged.

But Coca-Cola, the acquisition is a way to grab a bigger share of the noncarbonated beverage market, whose key leaders include Gatorade. The Coke rival snapped up Gatorade as part of its acquisition of Quaker Oats in 2000 after the Coke board turned rejected a Quaker deal, an action that has haunted the company.

In recent years, Coke has made several small, re-acquisitions in the United States to bolster its portfolio. In 2004, Coke bought the water company Odwalla for $186 million, and in February it bought Pure Beverages for an estimated $220 million, according to Beverage Digest. AFP

Burma junta extends Suu Kyi detention

RANGOON, BURMA—SUPPORters of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi roundly condemned Burma's decision to extend her house arrest for a fifth year, with Asian nations on Saturday for the regime to be expelled from the Southeast Asian regional bloc.

Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition National League for Democracy party and the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has spent more than 11 of the past 17 years in detention.

The order keeping her under house arrest at her residence in Rangoon, the biggest city in Burma (also known as Myanmar), was due to expire on Sunday, but officials said her of no one-year extension Friday afternoon.

Lin Ei Hang, who heads the opposition Democratic Action Party in Malaysia, said the extension showed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' policy of "constructive engagement" with Burma backfired.

Suu Kyi has been held unconstitutionally since May 30, 2003, when her motorcade was attacked by a pro-junta mob during a political tour of northern Burma. The government considers her a threat to public order.

In Thailand, home to many Burmese exiles, a spokesperson for a prominent opposition group said the new order would only embolden efforts to keep it fighting.

"It's a very unlawful decision by the generals, as we are very frustrated. She is not a criminal and not a threat to national security," said Ehi Lam of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, an exile-based anti-junta group.

The United Nations, the European Union and the US government repeated previous calls for the release of Suu Kyi and about 1,200 other political prisoners held in Burma, and for the country to move to democracy.

Noting the move had ignored international appeals for Suu Kyi's release, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other world leaders called the move a setback for those trying to promote democracy and reconciliation in the country. AP

Russia, UK clash over suspect in Litvinenko murder

MOSCOW—MOSCOW AND LONDON locked horns on Friday over where to try the chief suspect in the murder of Russian ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko, with each side insisting justice should be served on its own soil.

The clash over where to hold the trial of ex-KGB agent Andrei Lugovoi, supported by friends of poisoning Litvinenko in London last year, has deepened a diplomatic crisis between the two states over the killing.

"If the British side presents us with evidence of Lugovoi's guilt and if we consider it sufficient, he may be brought to justice" in Russia, Justice Minister Yury Chaika said in comments broadcast on state television.

"We won't hand him over because it contradicts our constitution," Chaika said, adding that Russian investigators would check any evidence presented by the British authorities.

Britain has pointed to Russia's signature of a 1957 convention on extradition and an agreement signed between the prosecutors of both countries last year.

"The murder was committed on UK soil, the evidence is in the UK, a UK citizen was killed and other people put at risk and it is therefore right a suspect should face justice in a UK court," British attorney-General Peter Goldsmith said in a statement after talks with Chaika.

Litvinenko, a Russian spy who accused the Russian government of orchestrating bombings in 1999 that killed hundreds of civilians, received political asylum in Britain and British citizenship before his murder.

Goldsmith said he had stressed "the full seriousness of the crime" to Chaika during their meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of EU justice ministers in Munich and that Britain would submit a full extradition request shortly.

The murder sent shockwaves through British society, where hundreds of people were tested for radiation exposure after investigators established that Litvinenko was poisoned with the rare radioactive isotope polonium-210.

Suspicion soon focused on Lugovoi, who met with Litvinenko with another man, Dmitry Kovtun, in a London hotel on Nov. 1, the same day that the former agent fell ill.

Russian authorities have opened criminal investigations for the murder of Litvinenko and the attempted murder of Kovtun. Both Kovtun and Lugovoi said earlier they have undergone checks for radiation poisoning in Moscow.

Lugovoi — a ex-Soviet KGB officer who specialized in bodyguard duties and now owns a security company and cafe-drinks factory — has also gotly entered his innocence.

LITVINENKO —

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olasco

Bush eyes major cut in Iraq troops in '08

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION is developing what are described as concepts for reducing US combat forces in Iraq by as much as half next year, according to senior administration officials in the midst of the internal debate.

It is the first indication that growing political pressure is having the White House to turn its attention to what happens after the current troop increase runs its course.

The concepts call for a reduction in force that could leave troop levels as roughly 130,000 by the midst of the 2008 presidential election, and they would also greatly scale back the mission that President Bush set for the military when he ordered it in January to win back control of Baghdad and Anbar.

The mission would instead focus on the training of Iraqi troops and fighting al-Qaida in Mesopotamia, while removing American from many of the counterinsurgency efforts inside Baghdad.

Officials say preparation of reducing the troops and scaling back their mission are just going to be in doubt Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. They have been joined by generals at the Pentagon and elsewhere who are skeptical that the Iraqi government will use the opportunity created by the troop increase to reach political accommodations.

In fact, the concepts are entirely a creation of Washington and have been developed without the involvement of the top commanders in Iraq.

One of the ideas, officials say, would be to reduce the current 20 US combat brigades to about 15, which would be completed between the spring of 2008 and the end of the year.

Several administration officials said they hoped that if such a reduction were under way in the midst of the presidential campaign, it would shift the debate from whether US forces should be pulled out by a specific deadline—the current argument concerning Washington—to what kind of long-term presence the United States should have in Iraq.

Missing from much of the current discussion is talk about the success of democracy in Iraq, officials say, in view of the passage of reconciliation measures that Bush said in January that the troop increase would allow to take place.

The officials said the proposals now being developed envision a far smaller but long-term US presence, involving perhaps fewer than 55,000 troops around Iraq. Bush has told recent visitors to the White House that he was seeking a model similar to the US presence in South Korea. AFP

TONY HERBA, of Philadelphia, PA., looks at boots which are part of the "Eyes Wide Open: An Exhibition on the Human Cost of the Iraq War" in Chicago on May 25. More than 1,400 pairs of combat boots, one pair for every US soldier killed in the Iraq War, were on display. REUTERS

Spy agencies predicted problems US now faces

WASHINGTON—US INTELLIgence analysts predicted, in two papers widely circulated before the 2003 Iraq invasion, that al-Qaida would see US military action as an opportunity to increase its operations and that Iraq would try to shape the post-Saddam Hussein era in Iraq.

The top analysts in government also said that rebuilding a stable democracy in Iraq would be a long and turbulent challenge.

Democrats said the documents, part of a Senate Intelligence Committee investigation released on Friday, make clear that the Bush administration was not candid with the challenges it now faces as it tries to stabilize Iraq.

"Sadly, the administration's refusal to heed these dire warnings—and, worse, to plan for them—has led to tragic consequences for which our nation is paying a terrible price," said the Democratic Senate Intelligence chair, Jay Rockefeller.

But some Republicans rejected the committee's work as flawed. The committee's top Republican, Sen. Kit Bond, said the panel's conclusions selectively highlight the intelligence agencies' findings that went to be important now, distorting the picture of what was presented to policymakers.

He said the committee's work on the Iraq intelligence "has become too embroiled in politics and partisanship to produce an accurate and meaningful report."

The 325-page document was approved by a vote of 10-5, with Republicans Sens. Olympia Snowe and Chuck Hagel joining with the Democrats to support its publication.

Asked about the report at his Thursday news conference, President George W. Bush stood by his decision to overthrow Hussein's government. He said he firmly believes "that, as I made it clear after the Presidents Saddam Hussein in power is Iraq.

"Going into Iraq, we were warned about a lot of things, none of which happened, some of which didn't happen," he said. "Obviously, as I look back at—

... I weighed the risks and reasons of my decision."

The investigation reviewed assessments from a number of agencies but focused on two January 2003 papers from the National Intelligence Council, "Regional Consequences of Regime Change in Iraq" and "Principal Challenges in Post-Saddam Iraq." AP

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Former Cheney aide may draw 3 years

WASHINGTON—A SPECIAL US prosecutor has asked the former top White House aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby convicted in a politically-charged CIA leak case, to be jailed for up to three years.

Patrick Fitzgerald made the request on Friday less than two weeks before Libby is due to be sentenced for his role in a perceived act of political vendetta that illegally exiled the career of undercover CIA officer Valerie Plame, wife of retired US diplomat Joseph Wilson.

"He has expressed no remorse, no acceptance of responsibility, and no recognition that there is anything he should have done differently," Fitzgerald wrote in his sentencing memorandum in a federal court in Washington.

He pointed out that in the course of a four-year investigation that was launched in October 2003, after Plame's name was leaked to the press in connection with an Iraq war debate, "Libby lied about nearly everything that mattered." Close Bush correspondent, the prosecutor said the former chief of staff of Vice President Dick Cheney should be sentenced to between 30 months and 37 months in prison.

The request marks another chapter in a long political scandal that tarnished the reputation of the administration of President George W. Bush and cast another shadow on its arguments that the invasion of Iraq was necessary because the country was amassing an illicit arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Plame's name was first disclosed in July 2003 by columnist Robert Novak following her husband's mission to Niger the previous year during which the former US ambassador tried to verify reports that Iraq was recently trying to purchase uranium ore there. AFP

Report: Memo proves Israel knew occupation was illegal

LONDON—A SECRET MEMO PROVES THAT the Israeli government knew that its occupation of Palestinian land was illegal after it won the Six Day War in 1967, a British newspaper reported on Saturday.

Theodor Meron, who wrote the memo as the Israeli foreign ministry's legal advisor at the time, said "I believe I would have given the same opinion today," according to The Independent newspaper.

With Israel now celebrating the 40th anniversary of the war, the 76-year-old Meron, who went on to become a leading international jurist, challenges Israel's long held argument that settlements do not violate international law.

The 5,000-word memo, said to be obtained as a copy of his legal opinion, which was marked "Top Secret" and "Extremely Urgent." Quoting its author, the newspaper said the memo concluded "that civilian settlement in the administered territories contravenes the explicit provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention." Meron also told the newspaper that four foreign ministry Abba Eban was "sympathetic" to his view that civilian settlement would go against the Hague and Geneva conventions governing the conduct of occupying powers.

But the Labor government at the time progressively approved the settlements in the captured West Bank despite the secret legal opinion which had been passed on to then Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

Such actions paved the way for at least 240,000 Israelis to settle in the the West Bank.

Meron, who served as president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia until 2000, was also quoted as telling the Independent that the settlements have proven to be a real stumbling block.

"It's obvious to us that the fact that settlements were established and the pace of the establishment of the settlements made peacemaking much more difficult," he was quoted as saying.

In the Six Day War in June 1967, Israel captured the Sinai peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan. AFP

DARTH VADER CONQUEROR This image provided by the US Postal Service shows the postage stamp honoring Yoda from the "Star Wars" movies. Yoda defeated Darth Vader in voting in cinema which Star Wars characters would get an influential stamp this year. AP

N. Korea fires missiles to flaunt military might

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA'S FIRST missile tests in nearly a year were aimed at showing off its military might and increasing pressure on the South over rice aid, observers said on Saturday.

But Seoul and Washington downplayed Friday's tests, calling them a "routine exercise" and dismissing any links with a continuing logjam in implementing a deal for the North to scrap its nuclear programs.

Kim Tae-woo of the state-financed Korea Institute for Defense Analyses said: "The North was apparently showing off its own weapons as South Korea launched its first large destroyer." The 3,900-ton destroyer is equipped with advanced weaponry for air and sea attack.

But he added that the tests do not pose a new security threat to the region, noting that it was unusual for the North to test ground-to-ship missiles.

The conservative opposition Grand National Party (GNP) said the North was aiden-rattling ahead of inter-Korean high-level talks that open here on Sunday.

"North Korea could be launching a political-card aimed at pressing the South to provide it with rice aid by threatening to disturb peace on the Korean peninsula," the GNP said.

"The North must stop blackmailing with missiles to extract rice aid from the South," it said, adding a shipment of 400,000 tons of rice aid until the North meets implementing the six-party deal to end its nuclear weapons programs.

Officials here said the missile tests were part of annual military training that the North carries out in the East Sea (Sea of Japan) and the Yellow Sea almost every year. AFP

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday SPORTS

BUY•SELL•PAWN ROLEX JEWELRY DIAMONDS

CYCLISTS raise their arms in cheerful fist as they ride in protest over the scheduled route during yesterday's Padyak Pinoy 6th leg race from Baguio City to Clark Field in Angeles City.

Calderon wins as top cyclists stage 'protest'

By Mustang R. Castillo

CLARK FIELD, PAMPANGA—There was nothing earth-shaking expected to happen in yesterday's penultimate stage of the 2007 Tuesday Padyak Pinoy—until the riders took it upon themselves to put some "drama" into it all.

Cebuano skipper Joel Calderon won the lap from Baguio to this former American military base, which was shortened by some 24 kilometers as some of the big guns wanted to ride the full route and instead pedaled leisurely to a huge potential all the way.

Most of the big guns, who hit their stride in a major change in the overall standings anyway, refused to follow the original route that would have taken the entourage to here via Marcos Highway and Agno-Arayat-Mexico-Dinalo.

Instead of going straight after reaching a junction in Pugo (town), the group wanted to make a left turn straight to Rosario town and cut 116 kilometers off the original route.

Race officials acted swiftly and declared the first 20 kilometers "null and void." They then ordered a restart from Pugo.

Calderon and four others broke away with less than 20 kilometers to the finish, and were what became a 115-km trip in 4 hours, 1 minute and 28.139 seconds.

Bernard Lunsay came in second, nearly 30 seconds behind, while Dario Lagos finished in third, 38.2 seconds adrift.

Calderon, from Guimba, Nueva Ecija, remained in eighth spot but now just 0.13 behind

Stage 6 Baguio City to Clark

Orcollo, 5 others unbeaten

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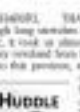
sun CELLULAR

Gregorio new BAP-SBP director

BANGKOK, THAILAND—Holding through long stretches of severe gasting traffic, it took us almost four hours of journey weekend from Bangkok airport to this province, site of the Sixth qualifier for the FIBA-Asia Men's championship in Tokohlama, Japan this July.

IN HUDDLE



BeBe Cielo

As in the past, we are expected to sweep this 4-day, 5-nation tournament with ease. Even if we missed super Mick Pennisi, it is forecasted to cut our team game due to a severely inferior roster that has been causing him unbearable pain.

For more than a week, Mick's foot has been so swollen he could hardly see, drag, much as even move his head laterally.

The infection happened while the RP quintet was still in Taiwan for the Fiba Asia Championship. It persisted all the way to Bangkok. Mick was given the option to stay in Manila to be under his doctor's care, but he would not have of it.

He was still hurting when he suited up for the first game against Singapore, but no one would have noticed. We took a couple of trips to the chair minutes that he played.

* * *

While the initial inflammation is now subsiding, Mick still chose to skip the scrapbine dinner hosted by Stella organizers for the participants last Friday night.

The show his talent of humidel dy Dampe was rediscovered during the campaign. Lany 'rediscovered' because his teammates said this was first discovered back in Taiwan, when he was asked to sing.

"Kaya ko lang siya sinig. The rooms are of extravagant and luxuries at times, but that does not stove him from singing in front of a big audience," a teammate said.

Reddel led the team in a "Power Hits" entertainment number, singing and doing acrobatic choreography which his teammates slept followed. This was the Filipinos' contributions to the program during the fellowship night.

Each participating team in the Sea, he was asked to do an entertainment number. Of course the Pinoy rendition was notably applauded by the Pinoy gallery.

Somebody from the group swore Mark Cagulio could have given Reddel a run for his money.

Only, Mark was too shy to sing on stage. Ever with his teammates.

* * *

Patrik "Pato" Gregorio was here with the national team when he offered my assistance as executive director was announced by BAP-SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan. I understand that there were only three names on it (he didn't list for the membership and nomination committee to tell Davao on last May 28.

The other two were Jay Jalalon of the NAASCU and Bonn Lucindo, a relative who has been helping MVP with the 3SF activities since August). He has recently been designated special assistant to the president.

Dean was summoned by any first three days, a member of the board of trustees.

* * *

Pato had no choice but to conduct his own First press conference here because it was all group of media men.

Right off, he made it clear that his role is not 'to succeed the school.'

While in the process of immersing himself into the system, Pato said he observed there to many good programs in our schools, but he added that all he had to do was consolidate them.

He told he looks at himself as a Philharmonic conductor orchestrating all the instruments to make beautiful sounds.

"My task will be how to get everyone's cue together so we can play beautiful music," he said.

He assured all concerned of his utmost professionalism and commitment to Philippine basketball.

"I am really in love challenging you more job for," he said. "I do not pretend to know everything about (basketball), so everyone who has anything helpful to say is welcome to see his piece," said the man who, everyone believes, now holds the most powerful position in Philippine basketball.

On at the very least, the second most powerful next to the president.

MVP told then he had chosen him above everybody else because he can relate his 'the spirit of community.'

Meaning, he has the talent or ability to unite all groups and personalities.

Whoppers end skid; Moneymen win

FRANCIS Hernado of Ozas tries to recover the ball from Allan Evangelista of Magnolia. ARLEN DELA CRUZ

By Jaroslaw W. Poyo

SUPER KING UNDID A SEVEN-GAME losing skid with a 78-73 win over Toyota Bullermunk which still clinched the quarterfinal format due to a higher quotient in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Ateneo in Loyola.

A game behind the Road Kings, the Whoppers needed to win by 17 points to finish the eliminating series in clear advantage in the new round but could not sustain their offensive after leading by as much as 20 points earlier.

The incentive went to the Road Kings for its higher quotient as they entered up with similar 5-7 slates with the Whoppers.

Both squads will clash again in the quarterfinals starting Tuesday with the Road Kings only needing to take one to advance to the semifinals.

Alvindo Intal rocked the first quarter lead scripted last Thursday with a third field to it end.

Meanwhile, Cebuana Lhuillier-Bers Pacific standout Marlboro Coates (67-74), to rule the elimination round with a 10-3 record.

Although both teams are assured of a semifinal stint, coach Luigi Trillo said the Moneymen will rock the track against the defending champions, which finished at 9-3, quite seriously.

Eric Reyes delivered 20 points, nine rebounds and three steals to lead the Moneymen to a second-round sweep and conference-best seven straight wins.

Coach Lawrence Chongson said the Whoppers may be at a disadvantage, but took the triumph as a good sign heading into the next round.

Pre-game

Red Lions

BEVERAGES (79-Gray 3) Ilano 12, Salvador 12, Abutan 9, Medina 8, Ramos 7, Dario 5, Palomino 4, Santos 3, Ta 0, Jarlenan 0, Sagadraf.

TOYOTA (BULLERMUK (73-Coates 19, Cua 14, Calubay 13, Enriquez 11, Cui 7, Cortez 5, Lopez 3, Gomez 0, Gonzales 0, Dalisay 0) Jose 3, Bautista 0, Sagadraf.

Quarter Scores: 19-19, 35-41, 58-60, 78-73

Second Game

SUPER KING (42) (3-9)—Reyes 20, Lopez 17, De Mesa 11, Dela Peña 8, Alvarez 8, Chiu 6, Delgado 5, Sala 4, Yee 2, Ilano 2, Robredo 2, Escalera 2, Ilano 0.

MAGNOLIA (69) (3-9)—Jones 26, Lopez 17, Ilano 12, Ilano 8, Alvarez 8, Chiu 6, Delgado 5, Sala 4, Yee 2, Ilano 2, Robredo 2, Escalera 2, Ilano 0.

Quarter Scores: 16-16, 31-31, 49-49, 69-69

Athletes get first priority

KARTING SENSATION Francis Pupp Reyes, the 11-year-old reigning Asian Cadet 60cc champion, shows off his trophy after scoring a podium finish in the Sepon Cadet 100cc class at the Thailand National Kart Championships held May 18 to 22 at the Bira Kart Track in Pattaya, Thailand. His trip was supported by Indonesia Powerboss and Jet Racing Tires Philippines.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ATHLETES GET SUPREME PRIORITY OVER events.

That, in a nutshell, was the sentiment of the Philippine Olympic Committee on reports to align the number of Philippine delegation to the unofficial P250 million Olympic training program.

POC president Peping Cojuangco yesterday said focus must not be on the sports disciplines but on the athletes, especially those who have genuine shot worth by making it to the Beijing Olympics qualifying rounds.

The Philippine Sports Commission last Thursday said it would concentrate on just nine sports instead of the original plan to have 14 disciplines.

This was mainly based on the recommendations of Peter Gerweler, Fiba director, who vowed to help come the measure from the top competitions in the country.

They chose taekwondo and boxing as major sports disciplines given their international records in tournament sport venue, while shooting and fencing do not the elite cast to talent capacity.

However, Cojuangco said the newer might deliver a surprise gold, where the country also has a fighting chance.

This early the country is assured of at least two Olympic slots to Beijing through veterans Miguel Molino and up-and-coming Ryan Arabejo of taekwondo.

"There are several athletes that should also be given a chance," said Cojuangco in a statement. "So rather than focus on particular sport's only, we should also look at potential medal-winning athletes in other sports."

But Ramirez said they will also help other sports, especially those included in the original list of 14 sports.

Santos pips Cariño for Touring title

ALVIN SANTOS OF SUZUKI SBT used broke away in the final 30 minutes to edge JP Cariño of Honda Isuzu recently in the second leg of the 2001 Philippine Touring Car Championship Series at the Subic International Raceway.

Cariño looked like some errors who led the race's final five laps. But Santos fought back, squeezing himself between Cariño and the concrete pit wall in the last 20 meters of the final straight.

From there, a front-stopping run ensued and others the number of lanes cleared. Santos claimed the checkered flag by a mere hundredths of a second.

Club Executive of Subic Drift Racing took third place while Shane Hinchliffe of Toyota Racing and William Tan of PrimeGlobal Mitsubishi Delta Racing secured top fourth and fifth, respectively.

"I had already given up and just told myself that next time around, I couldn't be slow. I pulled it off. Now I believe that it still doesn't sink in yet," said Santos.

Santos actually controlled most of Round 3 and was way ahead of Cariño and Gutierrez.

Santos also topped the Group 2 Motor Show over Mitchell and Jay Ortiz of Isuzu Motors Team Art.

ALVIN Santos of Team Petronas (right) is about to pass JP Cariño en route to a respective victory.

Biboy, Paeng head RP bid

THE QUEST OF AGING BOWLERS GOES ON against the country's finest keglers as the 50th PBC Open tournament tees off Thursday at Bowling Challenger's Alabang Town Center.

Reigning world champion Biboy Rivera, the defending Another HERE, and four-time Field Cup champ Paeng Nepomuceno spearhead the Philippine Oldies Bowling Association's 2001 Bowling Challenger's Alabang Town Center.

"This is our biggest tournament of the year and it will be a chance for Filipino bowling fans to see the finest bowlers not only in action but also on the world," Dave Henderson, president of the organizing Philippine Bowling Congress and International Bowling Congress.

On the other hand, PBC secretary general Bong Coo, a nine-time PBC Open champion, said that the national team's Jason Theodore, Indonesia, Bawah, Malaysia and Hong Kong are among the team champs squads that will be in the event.

Rivera will be honored by former world number champion and seasoned veteran Rudy Schlaft while Singapore will be led by Jennifer Tan, the 2003 world ranking number champ.

Also coming over is defending women's masters champion Rowena Ochoa of South Korea.

Rivera, who one action recently in two International events, said he had recovered if on his knee injury and said how on defending his masters title, especially now that it offers an increased pot of P250,000 to the winners.

Nepomuceno, a seven-time PBC Open masters champion, said he would be competing in the men's singles, doubles and scores competition of the tourney.

However, Paeng said he was yielding his place on the national squad for the younger bowlers.

Pilot Series on; Harbour backs Manila

HARBOUR CENTRE OWNER MYKEL Rosario has thrown his all-out support to the DDB campaign of Manila in the Baseball Philippines Pilot Series which starts today at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

Manila battles Laguna at 3 p.m., following the Cebu-Makati inaugural game at 9 a.m.

"We hope we could help sustain the resurgence of this sport in the youth and adult scenes," said Rosario. "We are committed to help Philippine sports that's why we're helping this noble project."

The youthful Rosario has earlier been named as the publisher of amateur baseball in the country for his generosity and involvement in several leagues, foremost of which is the Philippine Basketball League.

Aside from creating a team in the PBL, Rosario also bankrolled the Philippine team that won the SEABA Club Championships in Jakarta last month.

"But this is baseball, so, we do not have all organized any team or one of the best in Asia," said Rosario. "We want to have to endure with in the past, I hope we could relive our magic."

The Harbour Manilaniens, according to Rosario, will be comprised by amateurs of National University (9 players) and alumnus (3).

The team, which will be known as Manila, will be reinforced by several members of the national team to boost its campaign in the event organized by Commissioner's Sports, Inc. (CSI), a joint venture of Sports Vision Management Group, Inc. and First Pro Sports Management, Inc.

Nick Tandoan, business development manager of Harbour, is confident the team has the needed ingredients—a solid pitching rotation and a battery of heavy hitters—to challenge Cebu (Lyle Jolly) and Makati (University of Santo Tomas) for the title.

The invitation teams are Negros Occidental and Laguna.

NCA World Championship Derby June 5

THE TROPHY done by National Artist Eduardo Castrillo.

THE NBTA (NCA) COOKFO Association (BCA) World Championship Derby in Pasay on June 5, 7 and 10 will pit the North American cowboys against their Filipino counterparts. The Americans are headed by Jess Whitcliff, Tom Ives, Ray Ogrd, Butch Lawson, Larry Whitehead, Bobby Eastside, Larry Doherty, Esther Cruz, Jesse Garcia, Rene Martinez, and Butch Lawson. PCA stalwarts Pete Aggi Bermejo, Ben Bo Tiqueo, Ponnie Antonio, Ray Moreno, Bo de Ocampo, Michael Co, Lando Cabilao, Jr. Magsaysay, Boni Pineda, Edgar Santos, Pepe Alonso, Pete Javier, Inc., Wayne Flores, Mario Pasquin, Jerry Francisco, Tony Lucero, Jimpie Lee, Lito dela Rosa, Rebel Dela Asi Cecilia, Rolan Gomez, Leo Santiago, Ernie Medina, Efren Bautista, Mayor Tumbo, Efren Cortez, Mario Ollarvia, Joe Angry, Art Fernando, Mike Stephenson Brothers, Rene Lopez, Efren Magalit, and Ricky Carmona presented the above with a special Filipino Cowboy Hat. Awards will also be given to Jess Whitcliff Sr., Jesse Cid, Allan Davis, Jess and Bobby Ashes, Gaston, William Co, Rebel Sr., Jun Dimaranan, Pat Estrella, Ed Mercado, Jimmy Ong, Danny Chong, Benny Mon, Philip Guinaman, Philip Chongson, Dr. Jim Jenkins, Tony Tingog, Mayor Lucero Bravo, Mario Ollarvia and Mayor Alvin Aviles have also signed up.

RACING Rapidians Lib Cruz and Reginald Regal Tiongson are announced as Driver "Boss" Reyes takes a commercial time before resuming his magic in the Olympian Philippine Sports commission last month. Pioneer's writer Leni Sandoval is in Class A and Bobbob Dr. La Carmen in Class B.

Altas, Tams, Cardinals eye quarterfinals

Jonas Saiz (Reviews)
[illegible]

MANILA (ST) TO MARTI ON A QUARTERfinal berth while the chances of Far Eastern University and Perpetual Help hinge on each other's performances in the Filoil-Flying V Interzone Invitational Cup games the premiere meet playing site will host starting tomorrow at The Arena in San Juan.

A win by the Cardinals over the University of the East Warriors in the 9 a.m. main game will send them to the next round along with fellow Group B squads La Salle and Mapúa Cardinals.

However, a Mapúa loss would allow Arena to clinch a 3-win/1-loss slot giving Philippine Christian University a slim chance to equal their marks with a victory against the Reds College in their 3 p.m. game.

The quotient system will be used in case of ties.

FEU (win 1 win against University of Santo Tomas at 2 p.m. and will hope for a La Salle victory over Perpetual Help in the 4 p.m. match to set a tiebreaker with the quotient rule.

Jose Rizal University has also qualified to the last two quarterfinals.

The quarterfinal round which begins on June 4 would pit the No. 1 team against the No. 4 while the No. 2 and No. 3 squads collide.

The group winners meet in the June 11 semifinal while the championship game is set on June 13.

WILLIE MILLER: Prize prospect

Miller, Williams eyed for RP five

By Francis Delos

MACKAY, THAILAND—WHETHER OR not the Philippines completes a sweep in the current Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) men's championship here, no player in the current roster would be tapped to take part in the Fiba-Asia tournament this July.

"We still have to evaluate the performances of the players," RP coach Chot Reyes said, intimating that the team's goal will be to qualify for the Asian men's championship that will be held in Fukushima, Japan.

That tournament will serve as the qualifiers to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Aside from performances, Reyes added that injuries may force the makeup of the squad, just as they did in the current team.

Multi-talented swingman Tony delos Cruz was relegated to the injured list after spraining an ankle, forcing the RP coaching staff to call in high-flying ABC5 forward JC Intal "KD" Casolero, Red Bull's 6-foot-9 rookie pivot, Mick Pennisi as the suffering from a sore groin and may not see the squad's first game versus tournament host.

Reyes added that he was seriously looking at two players who have a legitimate shot at slots in the national roster for the Fukushima event. Alaska playmakers Willie Miller and Eric Laros super rookie Kelly Williams.

In the meantime, Reyes hopes that the Philippine Basketball Association will adjust its rules of officiating to keep up with the international style of play.

"We can keep the 32 seconds per quarter and the six fouls per player rule if we want, but we really need to allow more physicality in the pro league if we want to get used to the international style of play," said the national mentor.

Reyes said the league rules were not only that international referees let go, such as hand-checks and hand, lateral moving screens.

Meanwhile, Rebisco on Center coach Jamel Barsali joined the national squad here to scout the Southeast Asian teams that the Philippines will play in the Thailand SEA Games.

Barsali, however, has his eyes squarely on Thailand's national squad, which will represent the countries of playing at home. The Philippines is a traditional frontrunner in Southeast Asian hoops, but it missed the last SEA Games because it will under Fiba suspension due to a leadership squabble.

Barsali is also considered bets to Gone Alas.

Barsali hopes to talk to the PBA or the hopes of getting next year's batch of rookies to suit up for the national team.

Shelbon Centre team owner Milan Romero also has a pending request to allow a handful of guns to re-enhance the national squad for the SEA Games.

Lariba holds future of table tennis

THE FUTURE OF PHILIPPINE TABLE tennis may be with a pair-sized professionals and a promising game.

In an awesome display of stamina and skill, Ian Nestor Lariba topped three singles titles in the Iligan Mayland Sellerfront and Age Group Table Tennis Championships at the Hotel Memorial Coliseum last Friday.

The 11 year-old Cagayan de Oro City southpaw eared the 13 under, 16 under and Women's Open divisions, where she finished under former national player no match in completing an 8-0 sweep of the round robin finals.

Even more astounding, Lariba completed an unbeaten run of 44 matches stretching back to the preliminaries of all three categories of the event.

"We will try to push with the PSC to subsidize Lariba's training," said Tetay president Villaruel. "Her talent is too good to waste."

"Lariba is one of a kind table tennis wonder whose exceptional skill should be honed," echoed executive vice president of the Tennisers and SMAP board member Jose Sy.

Lariba, the oldest of two siblings of Antonio and Imelda Lariba, has won the last three Palarong Pambansa elementary gold championships. She is a protégé of table tennis patron Jackson Tan.

IAN Lariba (right) with Victor Villaruel

SPORTSWATCH

MBT-BAYAN: Air Relay shocks TeleTech

SPORTS HOUSED THE SPIRITED OF THE MBT-BAYAN DILI CENTER LEAGUE more the weekend as Air Force cruised defending champion TeleTech 40-35 in Group A at the PSI Office in Mandaluyong. Rookie Jhanna Arevalo led her Relay's offense with 12 points to carry her to the Scott Rojas-led team to comfortably the event backed by Bayan Telecommunications. Elsie Dia, Maria and Michael Lachica supported her with scoreless 11 points. Ruffy Mallapre and Ida Prado with 10 points, to either Group B quarter. Eagles downed ICT, 46-40, and Bayan Telecom made Presencia Professionals and Customer Competence, Incorporated Pacific Generation, 55-40. Maureen Barreto, Franklin Sumaoto and Allan Cruz contributed the Mission for Epsilon (40-0 Group pulled off a 17-10 win over Gateway to through the efforts of Jacqui Valera, Rolando Santos and Robbie Digna in Group B. ROBEL behind the 24-point performance of Ellen Jandoya, scored Boosters, 17-40, and 20th straight Talino Auto, 68-61.

WINNERS: Quezon City wrestler and sports advocate Arlid Jones (left) raises the hand of raconteur Dennis Orcullo, the reigning World Pool League champion and winner of the recent 2007 Espingarda cup in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jao, Aguilar together again in superbike race

ACTION IS SET TO RESUME THIS WEEKEND AS ET AUTO SPORTS ADVANCE Championship Series continues the early of 11-time motorcross titlist Jonas Aguilar could disrupt the season-end the second leg of the 2007 Shell Advance Superbike Series Extra at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. To date, a rider most both Jao and Aguilar participate in one race. Though Jao is in the Expert class, Aguilar's competition status is the fabulous to race under one the competition rather considered race to a higher round. Aguilar is reportedly bringing a two-stroke bike and if this is a signal of his serious intentions for the league's next two rest, Jao will surely have a tougher season to look up to. Jao is set to duel with his rival-up problems. The rider based while he grabbed the runner-up to Mako Honda of Caraballo in the season opener of this round.

WINNING THE WAY: Mayor Jose Sy congratulates Ayala Corporation's Jonas Pido, president and managing director Jose Vingson (right) and Intel Bayan's officer Jose Orozco (left) after the runner-up finish at the start of the Adidas Ring of the Road race to be held simultaneously in Metro Manila and the cities of Tarlac, San Fernando in La Union, Laoag, Puerto Princesa, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Cebu, Iloilo and Tacloban on July 1. Joined are Goody Caseres and Mitch Mukaidan.

Manila S'woods Inv'l up

WITH THE KNOWledge of the Masters course complete, the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club will give its members a first look at the course on Saturday in the 2007 Invitational tournament which is set to tee off on Wednesday in Carmona, Cavite.

The four-day tournament is a two-man team, 36-hole stroke-play event open to all members of the club.

Each team will be divided into four groups based on the handicap of the Southwoods members.

A Mitsubishi Lancer GLX Manual courtesy of Mitsubishi Motors and Diamond Motors, and an eight-day, seven-night Royal Caribbean Mediterranean Riviera Cruise for two plus Korean Air business class tickets to Manila-Los Angeles-Manila for the first flight of Solo-in-one prizes. A four-day, three-night El Nido Resort package for two, a Club Car Precedent golf cart, and an ASUS Eee-book 200 Mini-tablet are also up for grabs.

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Spurs target 3-0

WILL the San Antonio Spurs celebrate a third title?

SALT LAKE CITY—THE DMN WILL BE wearing "Tim Blue" shirts, choosing it as the right tones and grooming when silk-cuffs make calls against their users, all the things that have helped The Utah Jazz win every home game this postseason.

But can the wizard his a leaky defense? Or get struggling newcomer to find their footing?

If not, this may be the final weekend of cheering for several months.

Utah is down 2-0 to the San Antonio Spurs going into Game 3 of the Western Conference finals tonight.

While the Jazz overcame that deficit in the first round against Houston, erasing their only setback to home-wins, they know they likely need to take both these games to pull it off again. Game 3 is the biggie, because no NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 playoff deficit.

"We can't just look at the fact that we're going to be at home to win it for us," forward Carlos Boozer said Friday. "We've got to close up."

The Jazz haven't done that so far. Both games in San Antonio were decided by halftime, with Utah not even leading the road since the first quarter of the first game.

It's quite a contrast to Cleveland, which is down 2-0 in the Eastern Conference finals but at least had a chance to take both games in the final minute.

The Spurs deserve much of the credit for this shutdown.

Tim Duncan has been efficient as ever and Tony Parker has been a big, zipping side for him as well. Add in Brian Goodell's scoring as a reserve and some timely shots by other role players, and it seems the only thing San Antonio has to worry about is boredom.

"We're playing so well as we have all year long," said Duncan, who is averaging 20.5 points, 12 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 3.5 blocks this series. AP

Nadal, Henin open Garros defense

PARIS—ROGER FEDERER BELIEVES HIS CLAYCOURT confidence is at an all-time high as he launches his bid to win a first ever French Open title.

The 25-year-old Swiss #2 seed has made a habit of accomplishing the other three Grand Slam tournaments on the calendar, routinely waiting to win Wimbledon, Open US Open and Down Australian Open titles.

But in Paris, Federer has suffered the same demoralizing fate as another gifted predecessor—MIKE[illegible], Sweden, Sampras—who all came up short on the unforgiving red clay of the French capital.

The Swiss star, however, insists he feels confident and thinks the stinging Roland Garros champion Rafael Nadal is in the Bombing Masters final last week has put him back into the driving seat.

"I feel a lot better now compared to two weeks ago," said Federer, who has lost to Nadal twice on his last two years. "My confidence is back."

Despite the plaudits and the weakness of Justine Henin in her return here, it is Nadal who remains the favorite to win a third straight French Open title, a record achieved only by Bjorn Borg (1978-1981) in this sport era.

Justine Henin also takes aim at a third successive French Open title with her professional and personal life evenly balanced after her marriage crumbled.

Furthermore, the Belgian would another one to determined to prove once again that being prime is no barrier to Grand Slam success.

"I have this image of being a girl not as well as the others, not as strong as the others," said Henin who is coming to become One First occasion since Monica Seles (1990-92) to win the ICIs three times in a row. AFP

NADAL French Open favorite

Rose, Cabrera post 1-stroke lead in BMW

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—Justin Rose birdied the last three holes Friday for a 3-under 70 and a share of the halfway lead with 2006 champion Angel Cabrera in the BMW PGA Championship.

Cabrera eagled the first hole and added four birdies, including 18, in a bogey-free 66 for an 8-under 136 and a share of a one-stroke lead.

Rose Pieters, a 26-year-old who grew up playing at the Wentworth Club in Virginia Water and is a member, birdied his last eight holes for a 67 that left him in third along with Darren Fichardt, who shot 72.

Two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen shot a 74 and joined Ole Cat with a 6-over 282. Also missing the cut were Darren Clarke (73-148) and 2005 US Open champion Michael Campbell (76-151).

Dare to Swing

Swing over to the fairways of Wack Wack Golf & Country Club where CEOs, presidents and executives play with the country's best Junior Golfers on Monday, May 28, 2007 for the 5th Hundred Presidents Invitational Golf Tournament.

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'Don't mix yourself in the crowd, stand out'

RICO A. GONZALES

New Philips CEO talks about selling light bulbs like soap

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SELL LIGHT BULBS THE WAY YOU SELL soap and shampoo.

This was the challenge that faced new Philips Electronics & Lighting Inc. CEO and country manager Ricardo A. Gonzales six years ago when he joined the lighting division of the Dutch firm.

At first time Philips Lights was the market leader with a 40 percent market share. The regional head at that time told him to "explore but moving consumer goods (FMCG) technology in sales and marketing for lighting."

Rico says he would be asking why, when Philips was already no. 1 in the market.

The head simply told him "I am not after the reason, but the accountability of this position."

The words held a valuable lesson for the then mid-career executive who had left an executive director post at Procter & Gamble, in charge of building volume and market share of the firm's skin & beauty care category, to sell light bulbs.

At Philips, Rico became a member of the Sales and Marketing Blackbelt Avenir group that represents the top core personnel high potential employees taken from the line management to facilitate process changes in their respective organizations. The blackbelt group is also a pool where Philips gets future members of its top management.

Before meeting with Philips, Rico visited the lighting sections of different stores.

He realized that, unlike the products he previously handled in P & G, light bulbs were not much different in the sense that, there were many to choose from, which is only aimed to confuse most consumers.

He talked to the sales people and learned that most consumers dealt with the problem of buying light bulbs by simply bringing the old broken one and asking for exactly the same product.

It was a dictionary world, and Rico knows the principles in FMCG could easily be applied to lights.

"We went into category management (dividing the different products into groups and sub-groups, categorizing them) and helped retailers," he explains.

He admits that sales were up early in some cases but, "it is sustained, the shopping experience becomes easy."

A test run was done in Iloilo. In six months, sales went up by 20 percent.

According to Rico, Philips changed the way bulbs were sold. In the past, the manufacturers would simply "load the market." This means that, if they wanted to sell P1 million worth of products, they would give the retailers the equivalent amount in volume and left it with them how to sell the light bulbs.

"Under the FMCG way, we try to do it together. We link up sales and marketing. We

CONTINUED

THE GONZALES family

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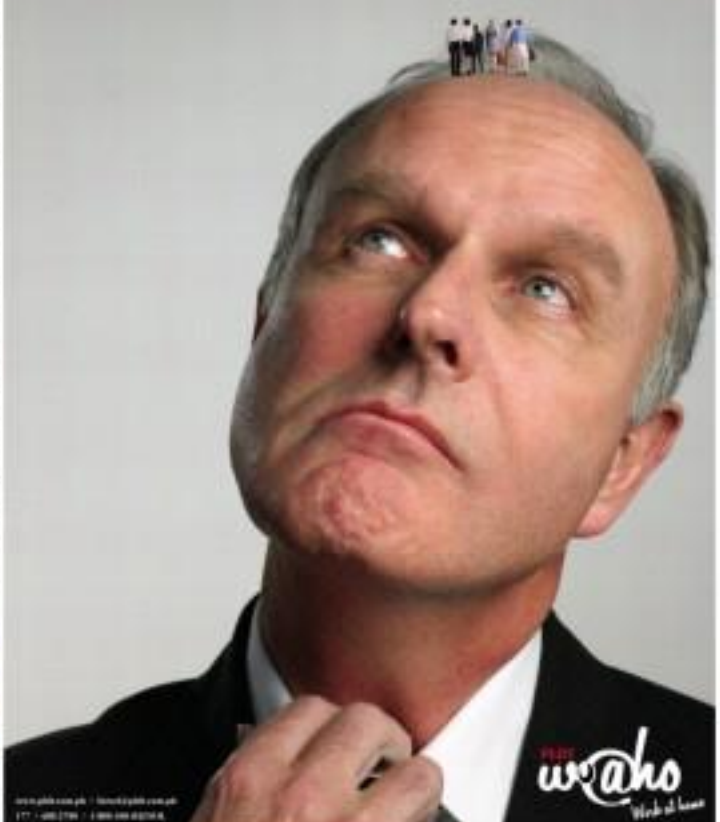

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Sweat drink, anyone?

Japanese sports drink flows in the Philippines

By Alissa H. Ikeda

AT FIRST, THE NAME "POCARI Sweat" might be met with raised eyebrows. It is after all, a sports drink and the word sweat might lead a person to think he might be drinking sweat.

Pocari Sweat is a popular sports drink in Japan, and countries such as Indonesia, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Pocari means chenda floating in the sky, says Pol Dimitri, sales and marketing director of Otsuka (Philippines) Pharmaceutical Inc.

"Japan is a water-centered country, so when they say it's 'sweat,' they actually mean, 'body fluids,'" Dimitri explains. "Therefore, Pocari is the replacement of lost body fluids."

Pocari Sweat is what is known as an electrolyte and carbohydrate replenishing beverage (ECR).

ECRs or sports drinks are taken to help address rehydrate and replenish lost electrolytes and other important minerals during strenuous activities.

Dr. Benjamin Co, medical director of Unilab, explains that ECRs are not to be confused with isotonic or power drinks because ECRs are taken mainly to replace lost electrolytes when one sweats, while isotonic drinks contain caffeine.

But because it is not only addresses who lose a lot of carbohydrates and electrolytes but also common people.

"Every time we move, especially now when it's really really hot out there, we lose a lot of electrolytes. Those are what we call physiological losses," Co explains.

This loss must be replaced but not with water alone, because then one would only be filled with excess water that will be lost through urination.

ECRs, on the other hand, are absorbed quickly by the body replenishing the electrolytes lost during sweating.

"The more you sweat, the more you have to drink." Co further explains. He says that when one starts to feel thirsty, it actually means that the person has already been dehydrated by 2 percent of his body weight. "You don't need to wait until you're thirsty, because by that time

OSHIKIDA

you'll end up having to hydrate yourself more."

Pocari has no artificial flavor and preservatives. Also, aside from water, it contains sodium, magnesium, potassium and notably, calcium, which is not present in the other brands.

Pocari has no food coloring unlike most ECRs in the market which could increase acidity (Ph level). The more acidic they are, the more chances that they would mix the enamel of your teeth, explains Co. That's why Pocari leads the other sports drink with its unique content. Also, culture and imagination keeps the boxes strong.

"The good thing about Japanese companies is that we practice up proprietary ethics," Co says. "We'd like to conduct clinical studies before we divulge information. Many Japanese companies would appreciate health the themselves and themselves after for us."

Pocari was first introduced in Japan in 1980 mainly as a sports drink, which later on evolved to general beverage.

Otsuka has been selling pharmaceutical products in the Philippines for more than 14 years and Pocari is its first consumer product.

To launch this well-known Japanese-originated drink, Otsuka Pharmaceuticals Inc. donated P1,20,000 worth of Pocari Sweat to the DSWD to be distributed to communities prone to dehydration.

According to Dimitri, Otsuka is going to be promoted in two ways—via doctors and direct to consumers.

By relying on the strength of Otsuka as a pharmaceutical company, Dimitri says medical representatives are going to promote the drink to doctors because Pocari can be administered to patients suffering dehydration.

"We want to utilize our strength in ethical promotions and because there are clinical studies to support our claim. In short, this product is research-based," says Dimitri.

Direct to consumers promotion will be achieved through sponsorship of sports activities, plasma and of course, advertising.

Being the official drink of the recently-concluded Otsuka Asian games in Davao, Pocari hopes to get a share of the market in the Philippines. So far, response has been good and there have been repeat orders from leading drugstores, supermarkets and even golf courses, Dimitri says.

"The company is happy with its entry phase," Dimitri says.

Tapping the power of the sun

By Abigail L. Ho

IT'S FREE, IT'S ABUNDANT AND IT'S ALL natural.

Best of all, it doesn't hurt the environment—which is why Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. has decided that solar power is the way to go.

Earlier this month, the Sta. Rosa, Laguna-based company switched on a solar power system that would supply the power requirements of the Toyota factory, Global 168, the guard and the lights in the employees' parking lot within the manufacturing complex.

The solar power system from Shell Solar Philippines Corp. can generate 6,600 watt-hours of power a day.

The complete solar power package includes 44 units of Shell SM50 photovoltaic (PV) modules or 50 watt-peak, a battery bank, PV controller, power inverter and system protection.

Toyota Philippines Inc. vice president Eric Alejandro says the installation of the solar power system makes sense for the company, especially as this will initially be used for the gym and the parking lot lights.

"We noticed that the activity center is only being used at night for a few hours, when the employees are on their dinner break. In the daytime, it doesn't need an energy source because of the sunlight. So we figured it would make sense to give it an alternative energy source, take the excess grid out of the power grid," he explains.

Solar power, he says, makes the most sense. After the initial investment on the solar power system, power for the gym and the parking lot lights will already be free.

Cost savings

"Solar came out as a reasonable option. A couple of years ago, we toured investigating this," he says, adding how Shell Solar was a huge help in this area.

Shell Solar had helped Toyota Philippines integrate the solar power system into the setups of the gym.

He says the company expects to generate significant savings or energy costs, even if only the gym and the employees' parking lot are powered by the solar power system.

The actual savings, however, can only be quantified six months after the system's installation.

But even more than the expected cost savings, Alejado says Toyota Philippines is more interested in the environmental benefits of using a renewable power source within its facility.

"The savings—that's a good reason for us to go into renewable energy. But that's not our primary reason for implementing the solar power system. The objective is really to reduce the burden of our operations on the environment, seeing as we're producing vehicles that produce carbon emissions," he says.

Toyota Philippines president Hiroshi Ito says the company is committed in doing its part in helping preserve the environment.

"With the switch-on of this solar power system, we are continuing our mission of continually searching for and harnessing the best technology available to improve our environment, especially with regard to its impact on the environment," he says.

"With the solar power system, we are not only conserving energy, but we are also contributing to the reduction in emissions from the use of traditional sources of electric power," he adds.

For his part, Shell Companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua says the company is looking forward to more solar installations in other areas of the Toyota manufacturing complex.

Migada says, however, that there are no plans at the moment for the expansion of its solar power system to cover other parts of the manufacturing complex.

"We want to study the technology first, evaluate it for a couple of years. We'd like to look at its reliability, see how the whole thing will work out," he explains.

He says that while the installation of the solar power system makes Toyota the first industrial firm to use this new PV technology from Shell Solar, he hopes the company will not be the last.

Serving as a catalyst

Both Toyota and Shell are hoping that their partnership will encourage other companies and industrial sectors to install solar power systems in their building facilities.

"Toyota believes that energy conservation and efficiency will certainly go a long way in the preservation of our planet's rich natural resources while promoting a healthy environment for the people. Applying technological advancements to our production line bears our third and hoped-for-push towards environmental conservation," Ito says.

"Doing good business should not be re-

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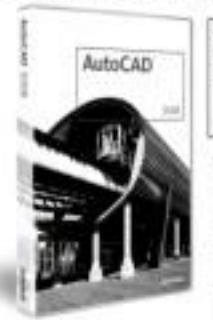

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'Don't mix yourself ...

from page B1

find out what to do to increase sales."

One of the major components of the strategy was to focus on the customers—to know what they want, much like the way soap and shampoo makers target a particular need or gap in the market.

Proof of the success of the program was that, it was implemented nationwide and adopted in other Ayala countries.

"I proved then that HP may not be the biggest market. [Or Philips lights] but it is the biggest in ideas," Ben says.

Starting things from scratch or innovating is not new to the 42-year-old Ben, who when graduated his two principles living with what he is good at—part of Stephen Covey's Seven Habits—and thinking.

"You can apply these anywhere," says the UP Business Administration graduate who had dreamed of becoming a company CEO one day. But he was not expecting it to come this early.

Although sandwiched between his two bosses, other administrators had an eventful path of success for the man who first wanted to be a lawyer. It may had to do with "nurture" because he grew up in an entrepreneurial family.

PHILIPS Here by Ben Isaac! "Begin with the end in mind"

"I was an on and off house student for my elementary and high school years. However, I did very well in all other subjects, hope that it helps in my career," he says.

After finishing high school in Don Bosco, he spent a couple of years in UP Manila where he and friends started the Bahikan Sportsfest to "liven up the campus." This became a legacy in UP Manila. Its became active in the student council, while he had already transferred to Diliman.

Right after graduation he worked at the UP Computer Literacy Program where he taught computer programs. At P1,500 a month, it was a decent job.

A year after, PBC came knocking on his door and with an offer of P4,000 a month, it's a grabbed the opportunity.

Guess times like Procter & Gamble or Unilever are known for getting only the cream de la cream of new graduates almost yearly. Most of those who join the companies usually end up with high posts in other firms.

At PBC he started as a trade sales section manager. His job is, indeed out of Manila assignments to Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, where he would visit several outlets daily that included markets and sari-sari stores, and sell different P&G products. He worked up the corporate ladder until, in 2000, the firm decided to create regional hubs for marketing and finance. That time, he was set to be moved to Singapore.

He was not sure he wanted to move out of Manila. Then the Philips offer came.

Ironically, in 2004, he was praised by Philips in Singapore as GM for Lighting Singapore and Asean Channel Development.

Early this year, former Philips CEO Mel Manzano invited Gonzalez was then promoted.

Philips is a very innovative company. It started as a technology company, and is now into healthcare and lifestyle," Ben says.

A major project of Philips is Otol, where the firm contributed 22 million euros, or some P1.8 billion worth of equipment, to the Philippine heart center and five hospitals throughout the country to benefit patients who have no means to access specialized diagnostic machines.

In the end of the day, Ben says the key is whatever business you are in is "do not mix yourself in the crowd. Make sure you do something where you stand out."

It was much like what he did with his life.

Wanted: Business plans for poverty reduction and profit in BiD Challenge

WITH THE DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING, Swiss-lands-based Business to Development (BiD) Network Foundation and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) are making a final call for entries to the online business plan competition, the Philippine BiD Challenge 2007. Deadline is on May 31, 2007.

BiD Network Foundation hires BiD Challenge and the website www.bidnetwork.org. Its mission is to contribute to sustainable economic development in developing countries by stimulating small and medium sized enterprise (SME) networks and linkages between countries.

To participate in the Philippine BiD Challenge, go to http://Philippines.bidnetwork.org (or call 927-7742 local 306/304) and submit a three-page plan online to at latest May 31, 2007. The total prize money is a whopping P2,500,000.

Even as join Philippine BiD Challenge if (1) you are resident of or based in the Philippines, (2) your business is or will be set up in the Philippines, (3) you want to start up or expand your business, (4) your business will create jobs and raise income, and (5) you are seeking between P 200,000 to P50,000,000 in investments.

"The potential of the Filipino is still untapped," says John van Breemen, director and co-founder of BiD Network Foundation. "There is no sense in hoarding capital in this country," he points out.

"Internationally, there's so much money available, but it's not being mobilized. Our goal is to increase the amount of money available for entrepreneurs in developing countries," says Breemen.

Fresh flower arrangement training set on June 2

TURN YOUR LOVE OF FLOWERS INTO a creative and rewarding new hobby or start a new career in floral design. Learn the proper techniques of how to make the long and low arrangements and centerpieces each.

The Golden Essence Skills and Development program will conduct a one-day seminar on fresh flower arrangements to be held at the Vermont Bloom Outlet mall at 9 Aconcagua St., Brgy. 3, Quezon City on June 2, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Expect to be discussed are courting of materials, costing etc. There will be classic-to-contemporary or how to make different arrangements such as centerpiece, bouquet, presentation, wreaths, bouquet for all occasions, etc.

Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. For questions call 912-49-28, 426-78-80, 425- 37-77; 955- 85-51; and 951-28-56.

Professional course for wedding coordinators

BECOMING A PROFESSIONAL WEDDING coordinator can now become a reality as "His Say! of Kris Bert Dueña Pioneers again offers "Introduction to Professional Wedding Coordination" on July 23 - 28, 2007.

The limited course is held in cooperation with Assumption College and will be held at the school's Hordon Carmen Graduate School Center in San Lorenzo Village in Makati City.

Structured as comprehensive 4 day course, this program aims to educate and provide qualified individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a dedicated career professional in the field of wedding coordination. The course includes: Overview on event management and wedding coordination business, wedding budget/time line preparation, supplier requirements and negotiations, on the day work and preparation, client management, start-up business basics and dealing with ethical and moral issues. Top wedding professionals will also be on hand as resource speakers as well as actual ceremony and reception on site visit. A Certificate of Attendance shall be given to those who have attended at least 8 complete days of the course.

Call 840-1807, 840-2350, 840-3504 or e-mail at [illegible]

Tapping ...

From page B1

are tied to the issues of marketing and finance alone, but more so, it must give equal importance to its responsibilities to the society," he adds.

Other projects

Aside from the solar power system, Hijada says Sweda Philippines wants to do more for the environment by implementing other environment-friendly projects within its manufacturing facility.

Right now, he says the company is trying to reduce groundwater extraction by using treated wastewater in water plants.

He says the company wants to limit its groundwater extraction to what is absolutely necessary.

"Our overall plan is to reduce the adverse effects of our operations on the environment. We're still in the early stages of our plan right now, but we're trying our best. We're just taking baby steps," he adds.

BiD Network links international expertise and funds with local entrepreneurship. It has identified what it calls a "missing middle problem"—a financing gap of $5,000 to $500,000 where microfinance stops and international finance starts for SMEs in developing countries. BiD Net works actor to fill that gap by helping find, identify and craft good business propositions in developing countries through this Challenge.

The roll of BiD Network and PBSP is also for partner organizations and professionals to gain as mentors, coaches and potential capitalists and business partners.

"All costs incurred, like telephone expenses, will be reimbursed. You get access to the professional business plans. You get into an international and national network of experts. You get to expand your network," encourages Dueñas.

Philippine BiD Challenge needs reviewers, either Filipino or international experts based in the Philippines, to read and assess the business plans online. "The top business plans get coaches from various fields of expertise, like legal, finance or marketing. The goal of letting coaches in to improve the business plan," explains Dueñas.

The timeframe of Philippine BiD Challenge is from business plan entry will be read three times, beginning with a pre-screening. Incomplete submissions and those promoting violence or immorality are immediately disqualified. The top 100 business plans will enter a 2nd round and will receive coaching. Those among the 30 who make the grade cutoff will participate in a business expo in Manila in October. From the batch, 10 teams will be chosen and the top 3 winners will get to compete for more prizes in the internationally business plan competition and expo in Nobel lands in Dusseldorf.

A Master Planned City

As Bonifacio Global City, all things large and small are given detailed attention. Everything you see and experience—from the physical form of the city to its infrastructure and utilities and even up to its economic and social aspects—are a reflection and testament of a well-thought development plan. Architect and Planner Henry Yap, Head of Property Planning and Design for Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC), discusses this multi-dimensional nature of city planning. "When we talk of city planning, we take both visible aspects that would make the city very vibrant," Yap explains. "This includes activities within the city and its surrounding areas that complement the development. In the case of Bonifacio Global City, we worked around the concept of live-work-play in a unique environmental setting that fosters a good quality of life for the locals." This experience is not exclusive to the city's residents, office workers, retail tenants and customers. "Everybody who comes to Bonifacio Global City can experience this balanced live-work-play atmosphere and the unique environment that encourages creativity and allows people to enjoy their simple pastimes. We treat everybody as a customer, even those who happen to pass through Bonifacio Global City," assures Jun Borinaga, Head of Commercial Operations for Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation. Borinaga also discusses other areas of concern in the city planning process. "You also look into how Bonifacio Global City positively impacts and benefits our host city of Taguig and its people, as well as security and community as a whole."

Every aspect in Bonifacio Global City is the product of stringent city planning

What made Bonifacio Global City a very attractive site for the country's best CBD? "The availability of large tracts of land that can be developed, its strategic location and accessibility to major roads, and the quality of life in the surround the area all contribute to making this a prime location," replies Yap. With such perfect conditions, FBDC, led and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. and Evergreen Holdings, of the Campos group, in partnership with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, and Taguig City, pleaded the feet under for the second master plan of a Vibrant City. Borinaga adds: "FBDC is making sure we are providing the correct solid foundation, a high standard of development, and efficient city maintenance. Truly a city that works!"

Breathing Life Into The City

In running a CBD like Bonifacio Global City, the value of a steady supply of power and water cannot be underestimated. As expected, Bonifacio Global City again exceeds expectations and boasts of world-class utilities. It is equipped with an underground drainage detention structure that is intended to prevent floods in Bonifacio Global City and adjoining areas. Its fiber optic cabling network supports a wide range of telephone, video and data applications. Electric power is supplied by Meralco through underground lines protected by several Meralco power sub-stations, ensuring the possibility of power outages and running round-the-clock electric service to residents and offices such as BPOs. The Bonifacio Water Corporation, with its water reservoir, water and sewerage system ensures strong water pressure 24 hours a day. Tokyo's world-class ensures the collection and treatment of sewage water according to acceptable environmental standards.

Bonifacio Global City benefits from an underground LPG system which is owned and operated by Bonifacio Gas Corporation, a joint venture between FBDC and Pilipinas Shell. "We adapted the system from designs abroad, particularly Hong Kong, and other developed countries," says Edwin Lazo, General Manager for Bonifacio Gas Corporation. The underground system has proven beneficial in terms of its safety and reliability.

The attractiveness of Bonifacio Global City is further enhanced by world-class I.D. and security management services provided by the Bonifacio Estate Services Corporation (BESC). BESC is responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations, security and traffic management, city cleanliness, maintenance of landscaping and the thousands of trees around Bonifacio Global City, and providing emergency response teams and support services. Bonifacio Global City has its own private ambulances and state of the art fire truck and support system.

Being the first large-scale development in the Philippines to be fully equipped with world-class athletic and cultural facilities by management is another testament to Bonifacio Global City as a City that Works!

Fresh fruit and more at Bonifacio Market

Imagine living in a city that works.

Bonifacio Global City
Home of passionate minds

Imagine living in a city where vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow freely and smoothly. Power and communications facilities are world standard. And public utilities are plug and play. A city masterfully planned so you are always close to where you want to be. What was once just an idea is now a reality. The City of Ideas – home of passionate minds.

For inquiries on Bonifacio Global City, please call 818-3601. For lot sales, please call 757-8116.
You may also email us at info@bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph or log on to www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph

A Retail Mecca for the Creative Age

Shopping and dining in privacy while surrounded by a unique retail experience rich with one of a kind shops and dining places. Here, shoppers and diners can enjoy extensive retail and food choices, from the famous el Market! Market!, to Bonifacio High Street – almost a kilometer long stretch of shops and restaurants anchored by an activity park, that stem from Serendra up to Third Avenue.

"At Serendra, we have authentic, unique restaurants and specialty stores, while Bonifacio High Street has rows of flagship stores and 'must-be' brands," explains CJ Lorenzo, Senior Division Manager of the Ayala Malls Group. Bonifacio High Street's flagship stores of various brands is one of the location's strongest points. These include the biggest Nike store in the Philippines, the biggest Havaianas store in the world, the biggest Hobbes and Landes, the first in-line Guess store, and the country's first Krispy Kreme outlet. The largest Fully Booked branch is soon to open, boasting of Eve Store. During the conceptualization of Bonifacio High Street, the name was influenced by existing retail success. "Serendra is a reminder of SoHo in New York, Santana Row in L.A., and Lincoln Road in Miami," says Lorenzo. On the other hand, Bonifacio High Street took inspiration from Main Street and shopping areas such as Third Street Promenade and The Grove, both in California, which brings together office and retail in a relaxed atmosphere that is conducive to work and play. Coffee lovers will delight in the line-up of coffee shops found here –

Mother and daughter relaxing in shopping environment, there's coffee to enjoy in Fully Booked

Figure, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Starbucks, Seattle's Best, and the Coffee Shopping at Bonifacio Global City also serves the various specialty shops that dot the retail landscape, including Market! Market!, Price Smart, and the Car Plaza, which comprises top automobile brands like Ford and Mercedes Benz. You're the spirit of Bonifacio Global City, every brand possesses longevity and world-class quality. "They will be here for the long haul," Jessica concludes.

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Reyeme

Shops

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BELLE OF INVESTMENTS INTO the call center and information technology industries in Cebu City means more money flowing the pockets of the famously stingy Cebuanos.

More disposable income means Cebuanos are more willing to part with their hard-earned cash, which is good news for young entrepreneurs who have followed their heart's desire and opened chic one-stop stores in the Queen City of the South.

Annabelle Ivanove Ivee a few of these young entrepreneurs making waves in Cebu, and perhaps soon, the rest of the Philippines.

Luvs Apparel and Accessories

Caroline Melegar used to work for a bank, but she was always bothered by a nagging thought that there was something else that she ought to do.

So she left the bank, borrowed capital of P50,000 from her father, dipped into her savings, and in 2004 pursued her passion for designing clothes for women like her—fashionable but not too Cheeky.

The 29-year-old designs the clothes herself, and she considers her Luvs store in the Ayala Center in Cebu as a fulfillment of a long-cherished dream to be in the fashion business.

"I love what I am doing now it is my calling," Melegar says.

She says she caters mostly to young women, but says her clothes can also suit women up to their 50s.

She sells mostly tops costing between P400 and P695, with a few dresses costing between P1,295 and P2,495.

"I come up with new designs every week to give my customers a variety of clothes to choose from," she says.

Melegar currently has stores in Cebu and Davao, and she manages some designs in Cinderella in Manila.

Opening up a store in Manila is one of her goals, but says she is happy in the meantime expanding her business in Cebu City.

Posh Hair and Nail Salon

Like Melegar, Kelly Tesoro used to work in Manila before she packed up her bags and heard herself opening up a business in Cebu.

Tesoro would have gone back home to Davao but she says Davao was a little too laid back for her considering she came from the hustle and bustle life in Metro Manila.

Cebu came somewhere in between, and so she decided to go into business to give her more reasons to stay.

She hit upon the idea of opening up a high end hair and nail salon because she could not find one when she came to Cebu.

Tesoro thought there were others like her looking for a hair and nail salon with high product and quality standards, so Posh Hair and Nail Salon came to be picture.

It must cater to her salon costs: P80 and P90 for a pedicure. An extra P45 is charged for the Ever and Only polish that last longer than the local brands.

The 36-year-old says she still has to work at convincing clients to use other types of nail polish, telling them that Ever and Only

SHOPS B2-3

CAROLINE Melegar of Luvs Apparel and Accessories

DIANE Qy knows What A Girl Wants.

The Power of the Elements beckons.
X5
M YV 4396
The new BMW X5. Only a few will be privileged to experience it.
Call your Authorized BMW Dealer now.

What south of Manila has to offer

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CALABARZON—WHICH GROUPS THE provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon—means more than just industry closures and golf courses.

The booming region is also known for its agricultural products and processed food, which is showcased during the recently concluded International Food Exhibition Philippines and Bio Ananda 2007 organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions.

On display were agricultural products, such as coffee, mushrooms, meat and poultry. There were also bottled honey, pies made of young coconut, and frozen and canned bangus.

Celebration was the fitting partner theme this year, and its best selection of food and agricultural products were featured to introduce local and foreign buyers to what the region's micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) have to offer.

"Celebration MSMEs expressed interest in participating in the Partner Region Program of Trade because of the opportunities there to tap the food-rated region last year," said Cirene executive director Felicisa B. Agustilho-Reyes.

Reyes said Cirene supports the partner region program to help SME food producers from Calabarzon enhance the marketability of their products and break into the export market.

SMEs from Southern and Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao also brought to Manila their products for the export market.

But Dido T. Sumaoang of the Department of Agriculture said Southern Mindanao's mangoes, papayas, bananas, coconuts, pineapples and rubber got the most inquiries during the exhibition.

Southern Mindanao covers the Davao provinces and Compostela Valley.

Mindanao Coastal Cebu Central Mindanao office on the other hand, said timesweeds and banana chips attracted the most inquiries.

Those said to the region's traditional products of durian, bananas, taro and pako tot.

Central Mindanao covers North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani.

"We at the DA continue to identify private firms who want to promote their products to a greater market, and we believe we have good products to show," Sumaoang said.

What Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon have to offer.

PHOTOS BY ERWIN ALPUGO

How some get their college education

"I FINISHED FIRST SCHOOL. INCIDENTALLY, what will it be for me. My parents' business entrusts failed so they did not have the capacity to send me to college. We relocated to Iloilo, started from scratch, so the future seemed distant. But God has been so good to me by setting the 'did' foundation to me and in the mark of time, after a battery of tests and interviews, became one of the few lucky ones to be an SM Foundation scholar," said Christopher Gerosaga, a summa cum laude of Central Philippine University in Iloilo as he delivered testimony last Wednesday, May 16, SMX.

Christopher, together with graduates from University of San Jose Recoletos, Cebu Institute of Technology and the University of San Carlos in Cebu, the Central Philippine University and Western Institute of Technology in Iloilo, Ateneo de Davao and University of Southeastern University in Davao flew to Manila to meet their benefactor, Henry Sy Sr. and family.

Ms. Lizell A. Aseo (bicycle driver) for their modest years at night so he be able to put food on the table and to send them to school. Going to college was no "impossible dream" for the family. The Sm Foundation accepted her as a scholar in the Philippine Normal University taking up BS Education major in Special Education. During the presentation, she paid tribute to her parents by asking them to stand up to acknowledge the resulting ovation that the audience gave them. She has accepted a teaching job in a school in Mandaluyong City. To share the education of a younger sibling to lighten the burden of her parents.

These stories were part of a ceremony held in Mega Trade Hall during the presentation of the 74 graduates of the Foundation's 3rd batch.

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Shops make ...

From page B2-1

provide better value for money.

She also offers a line of nail polish that does not leave behind that annoying yellowish stain on the nails.

Tesoro says her first store on Bonifacio Street opened in 2005 and it has been doing well, prompting her to open up a second one this year in Tarnate City.

"I am now looking at franchising because there is much room to grow the business," Tesoro says.

What A Girl Wants

Diana Rose G. Ty still remembers how she got started three years before she was given a little space at the Ayala Center in Cebu to get her concept store off the ground.

Ty says she built What A Girl Wants a space earlier because it is now a favorite shopping stop of young girls wanting fashion forward clothes.

Ty says she built What A Girl Wants on her own niche for clothes that are far from the basic, clean lines that were prevalent in Cebu before she opened in December 2005.

"I am happy that the Cebuanos were very receptive to the concept of the store," Ty says.

Like the name says, the store sells everything a girl wants in clothes, such as shirts, jeans and shoes.

She says she trades through the products of many suppliers to get the right merchandise mix. She gets from both local and foreign suppliers, although she would want to get more products from locals to support the economy.

She now has another store in Lagayan de Oro and she plans to put up two more next year, one more in Davao and one in Davao.

Ty even put up a men's line she calls What A Girl Wants ... for Him Man.

Ty says it takes a lot of time, energy and resources to operate a store, but she says she would not trade it for a comfortable job behind a desk.

"I have always wanted to get into my own business. I don't want to stay behind the desk all day," she says.

It is a feeling shared by the growing number of young entrepreneurs finding their fortune in booming Cebu City.

Former UN staff now wears an apron

From page B2-4

and dark chocolate and pandan cakes.

Beverages include Arabica coffee, lemongrass tea, gingh (a wild tea), a mountain tea variety from Bagulin town in Mt. Province, and fresh juices from fruits in season.

Outlet for small producers

One thing that Abellon is happy about is patronizing and promoting the products of small farmers and entrepreneurs.

She gets her honey, sinsuyong, linsoob, carrots, beans, cauliflower, basil, rosemary, lemongrass and other vegetables and herbs from members of the La Trinidad Organic Practitioners Cluster, a local organic farmers' group.

She sources her organic teas from traditional tea and livelihood centers in Mt. Province, Ifugao and Benguet.

The rich and gluten-free cocoa from a local home-based producer. Same with the coffee Abellon serves. She gets her ground, roasted coffee from the Benguet Organic Coffee Suppliers Enterprises, an organization of more than 200 backyard coffee growers in Benguet.

The organization has its own processing facility and marketing arm and has standardized its beverages prices, which, an official of the organization says, are "much higher" than the buying prices of traders and middlemen.

ABELLON cooks with the help of her 10-year-old son Luigi.

"In patronizing and promoting the coffee of our local growers, I'm in a way helping in their advocacy against plantation-type coffee cultivation, which is a no no to sustainable agriculture," says Abellon.

Providing jobs

If she used to be a mere employee, Abellon is now a small employer, helping provide much needed jobs in the country with 3.4 million jobless and 5.4 million underemployed Filipinos.

She has in her employ two working students, who help her in processing sausages and buns and in other related tasks. She gives the two students daily transportation allowances and pays their tuition and other school fees.

"So this is my new career.... making dishes, cooking, sweeping the floor," says Abellon, "But I am finding peace and satisfaction in this new endeavor."

She is now an improvement organization worker and 329 development worker. Abellon did not lose her advocacy for the cause of farmers, which she has integrated into his new business.

"I'm happy I can directly discuss with farmers about their products and about how to improve, package and market their products," she says.

Organic, indigenous food

Through her café and restaurant, Abellon will introduce to patronizing Cordillera indigenous food such as edible nature rice field seeds, fresh water fish and eels, and intercropped or wild vegetables.

"In promoting indigenous food, we are acknowledging that the original organic practitioners are our ancestors, who showed us a whole organic and healthy way of life," she says.

Threatened species get help from RP firms

By TJ Burgonio

DUMOL, SORSOGON—THE TOWN'S most famous residents are getting new partners.

Oceana Foundation Philippines has launched its "Adopt A Species" program and has "adopted" the whale sharks here as its, initially, as part of its bigger program to protect the country's threatened species.

The butanding is listed as one of the world's vulnerable species, and could become extinct unless steps are taken to protect them.

"The whale shark is a symbol. A symbol that we should not wait until it's threatened or endangered to order to start acting to protect it," Oceana Foundation Philippines Aimee Gonzales-Dan said during the launch of the "Adopt A Species" program at a resort here overlooking Donsol Bay.

Dr. Dan said the government, nongovernment organizations and the private sector should work together to prevent the butanding from becoming extinct.

The whale sharks have been luring tourists to this fourth-class municipality in Sorsogon since the late 1990s and the influx has boosted the town's economy.

At the same time, the growing crowd of tourists who crowded to get a glimpse of the friendly sharks have also heightened awareness of marine conservation.

The "Adopt A Species" program was jointly conceptualized by Oceana, which is involved in funding education and environment programs, and Conservation International (CI).

"The [program] gives us new hope of sustaining our efforts, saving butanding and saving our seas," said Fe Gayoga Figueta of the Society of St. Joseph, a local conservation group.

As part of its initial adoption scheme, the foundation has released an initial P60,000 for the photo identification as well as genetic analysis of the butanding population to ensure easy tracking and protection.

The plan is to identify 40 whale sharks with a photo, skin sample, gender information and GPS coordinates, among others, to see where the sharks usually travel, said Angelia Quevar, research project manager.

"This information will let us know more about sharks in Donsol compared to other sharks in the world," she said.

Bunny Tiozo, executive director of CI-Philippines, said the output of the study would be crucial to the global assessment of the whale sharks.

He added that local NGOs and local government in Donsol could base their conservation program on the results of the research.

Gramo officials stressed, however, that butanding was merely the "flagship species" of the adoption program, and that other threatened species would be covered.

Gramo and CI would identify priority species based on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

They would seek to convince private companies and individuals to "adopt" a specific species, not only by funding conservation efforts, but also by helping coordinate projects to protect the species.

By doing so, the two partners hoped to instill confidence a "strong, science-based framework for a long-term species conservation program."

"Many environment groups have made tremendous effort in conservation, and many of the efforts are often under-funded," Dr. Fores said. "Our program aims to address those issues by harnessing efforts to species conservation by different groups."

To entice private companies and individuals to invest in the protection of a threatened species, such as the tamaraw, dugong, and black-necked stork, Gramo said it would seek the passage of the "Adopt a Wildlife Species" bill that would grant tax credits to adopting companies and individuals.

"We need to have a law that provides the framework to promote species, and provides for the private sector to get involved," Dr. Fores said.

Gramo would release P1.431 million to develop a communication strategy and draft the appropriate legislation.

Awaiting the passage of the bill, the foundation would continue funding the photo identification and genetic analysis of the butanding, Gramo officials said.

"We hope to make sure that butanding is protected and will continue to be the highlight of ecotourism in this town. We look forward to the day that this activity will be replicated by other companies and individuals," Dr. Fores said.

THE WHALE shark, locally known as "butanding" (Rhincodon typus).

'Private firms, NGOs, local gov't need to work together to protect the butanding'

Costs of HMOs to go up this year

A CHALLENGE FACES THE HEALTH Maintenance Organization (HMO) industry this year: costs are set to go up.

This was confirmed by Mario Silos, president of IntelliCare, one of the industry's leading players.

The cost push is being attributed to the rising prices of HMO suppliers and to related industries. Medical professionals as well as facilities have earlier increased this trend.

"It's a domino effect. If a related industry (such as the big medical facilities) increases its numerous of various its costs, the others have to take the same course if they want to be able to continue their services and to offer those with the same quality," Silos says.

Health Maintenance Organizations rely on medical professionals and facilities such as clinics and medical centers to deliver the healthcare package subscribed to by its clients. In if a hospital raises its prices, the HMO follows suit.

Local HMOs serve over three million Filipinos today. This many have been relied on the top care services of medical professionals and facilities for years.

IntelliCare alone maintains its accreditation in over 300 hospitals and is affiliated with over 6,000 medical doctors. By year's end, most of which have not raised their prices, "saying those is not an option they are willing to face. Those professionals are an essential part of what makes the company a trusted name. The same principle goes with other HMOs.

Those numbers have to be maintained for the company to continue offering quality service. If you lower that number, you lower your clients' choices and chances of getting quality healthcare.

Industry Creation Perpetrated to Get Push Incoming the challenge can be tricky Silos asserts. If this were any other industry, the natural course for a company to take is to give in to the inevitable demand for lowering of costs, especially when faced with the threat of clients shifting to other lines (HMOs.

Instead, Silos proposes, HMOs must tackle the problem by appraising the quality of their total services.

The HMO industry is unlike any other industry that has relied on a certain base of consumers whom its players tap: empty clients with low price offerings in the hope of retaining their patronage and gaining considerable numbers.

The HMO industry must be wary enough not to fall into the trap of engaging in a price war with players for that other sets very high. The risks are not insignificant.

First, if an HMO does decide to lower its costs, it has no choice but to face the challenge of offering services that are proportionate to it. It will be a dire challenge for the HMO to pull suppliers who have already raised their costs within its influence. In the long run, the HMO will imperil its own existence. End users who used to raise number in a certain health plan provided for those by their employers are going to end up dissatisfied. There is no greater threat to an HMO than a dissatisfied and disgruntled clientele.

Second, companies that decide to avail of these lower cost HMO services and initially be able to rest assured of continuous health coverage for their employees will soon realize its risks. Ideally it involves the very health care of the people within its employ who, it must be stressed, used to enjoy value greatly and run with a considerable amount of variation, the services of its standard cost health plan.

Third, modalities of treatments are being developed over time. New technologies eventually become necessary procedures. Those not offering these will cease to exist. Clients with low premiums will become standards in the future. HMOs that do not go with the pace will eventually not be able to afford them.

And since the cost of most of medical professionals and facilities will have gone up in the future, the lowest HMOs will of course only be able to offer low-cost medical services from a set of lesser number of facilities that offer quality services.

There is much to be hopeful for the the HMO that will be keen enough to see the hurdles they will get if they decide to sail along the coming current. But in the long run, the clients will benefit from this.

STUDENTS start their back-to-school shopping.

New way to go back to school

By Russel W. Dorsings

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUcation's Oplan Balik Eskuela campaign, the Department of Trade and Industry has been monitoring prices and the quality of school supplies being sold in Metro Manila.

The DTI National Capital Region said yesterday that it had so far monitored 19 stores and checked out 150 school products.

Trade Assistant Secretary Angel L. Pelayo said the monitoring would continue until after the school opening.

At the same time, the Eyesaver Coalition, which promotes ecological waste solutions, came up with useful tips for parents and students so they can achieve zero waste goals and save money for back-to-school needs.

The Quezon City-based coalition said it teamed up with the youth group Add Up! for fresh ideas.

"The usual back-to-school spending spree has environmental costs that are seldom considered when parents of the country's over 22 million students troop to the bookstores, shopping malls or Divisoria in the hunt for new notebooks, pens, bags, shoes and uniforms," EcoPlastic said.

Aside from making a dent on the parents' wallets, the same statement said, these activities have other negative impacts on the environment.

"Every time we buy something, fossil fuel energy was used to produce and distribute that item."

EcoPlastic's most important task in school is to—borrow or use second-hand books. Other useful tips are:

• Reuse magazine cover, gift wrappers or grocery bags to cover your books.

• Refrain from writing or drawing on your books so you can pass them on then to friends and relatives next year.

• Donate your old books and notebooks to school or community libraries and share the right of knowledge to many unschooled children.

• Before buying school supplies, check what reusable or recyclable items you have at home.

• Collect the unused sheets from your old notebooks and rewrite or sew them to create your own personalized notebooks.

• Buy products made from recycled materials.

• Patronize locally produced school supplies and avoid cheap imports to support the local industry as well as to lessen the fossil fuel energy used in transport things.

• Select durable school supplies that can be easily reused, recycled, repaired or refilled for many years.

• Bring a reusable bag when you shop. Join the growing league of consumers who are saying no to plastic bag pollution.

• If your old uniform is still in good condition, consider having it altered instead of buying a new one. If your shoes still fit, forgo buying a new pair.

• Use reusable containers for your lunch and drinks.

• Bring native kakanin and healthy food for snacks packed in reusable containers. Avoid junk food in plastic wrappers, styrofoam and other throw-away plastic disposables.

• Replace disposable paper napkins with reusable cup or napkins.

• Car pool, use public transport, ride the school bus, or if possible, bike to school.

Changing the face of a car salesman

THE DAX supervisors in design

DAX WORKERS ARE PRETTY OBSERVANT and get relentless how a reputation of being current sellers and economic-worthy individuals? It's because after every transaction, the ordinary asset car salesman turns his back on the customer and never associates himself with the latter again—unless the same plans to buy another used car from him.

A new group of car salesmen wants to run away from this stereotype. The owners of the Isla Auto Exchange (IAE) Extraordinary dreams of giving quality pre-owned cars at a competitive cost without leaving the customer doesn't changed after the sale.

IAE is the first and only used car superstore that offers warranty and other sales services by car experts highly trained under Japanese automotive standards.

Led by the company's 100 and general manager Ferdinand "Bong" del Rosario, these pro and master technicians from Toyota Otis and Toyota Bulletproof Intuits and works conduct a regular 32-point checkup on each car in their five-star service workshops to keep track sure to top form and condition.

Unlike most used car dealerships that park their cars in spaces with tent-like covers for protection, IAE cars are housed in a solid structure whose architecture is specially designed to shelter, preserve and maintain the cars under its close supervision and care.

There is a fully air-conditioned customer's lounge, a team who answers questions, addresses the customers' needs, personalized offers such as the Special Kahulugan cars for OFWs and one-on-one session with each customer who plans to avail of insurance and financing services.

IAE also offers services such as vehicle warranty, free periodic maintenance labor, low change oil for the first 5,000-kilometer check-up, free towing within Metro Manila, underwriting discount and, body works and painting discounts.

IAE is at 199 Sikatuna Ortigas (South-bound, right before BIR).

Former UN staff now wears an apron

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Central Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—AFTER FEELING burned out from a good paying but routine job of cross-checking a credit guards' program of a United Nations agency in Mexico, Imelda Christine Abellon quit in 2004, unsure of what to do next.

"I was not happy anymore with what I was doing. My work became routine—nothing to inventive ... and I'd wear [a] stressful," says Abellon, a 42-year-old mother of two.

She went back to school for a graduate study on management at the University of the Philippines-Baguio.

"But I found I finished it because I still have to take my comprehensive exams. I just got bored," she says.

Getting bruised out and bored, however, did not make Abellon give up on life altogether.

She found herself integrating with very scenic features of Benguet when, as part of a requirement in her graduate studies, she wrote a paper on the situation of locally-organic farmers.

"The big shift for me was setting up a coffee shop," said Abellon, who now wears an apron as she prepares snacks and meals from organic farmers' produce at her coffee shop at the provincial capital grounds here.

Called Cafe Mahogany, the shop's name (coincidentally her husband, Robert) means living life and freedom of the debtor in Kankana-ey.

Alternatives, choices

After enrolling in short courses on baking, cooking and brewing coffee, Abellon was determined to start a business into which she could integrate her advocacy for healthful living.

Although she has no formal degree, Abellon has embarked on a business that seeks to offer "alternatives and other choices" amid what she calls the "McDonaldization of eat food," referring to a worldwide fast food mailing per chain.

As a mother, she says she is alarmed that obesities, obesity and kidney troubles, which, she notes, are considered "First World diseases," now affect more and more Filipino children.

"These diseases can be traced to what we feed our children," she says. "If we love our children, let's give them healthier choices."

She has been encouraged because owners of private preschools to introduce what she calls "healthier and organic snacks" such as yogurt drinks and fiber-rich bread and muffins as "alternatives to soft drinks and junk food."

As an "alternative" coffee shop, Cafe Mahogany offers organic food and beverages for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian customers.

Vegetarians can avail themselves of sound-tripped vegetables with tofu or barbecued gluten or tender corn.

Meat vegetarians can try the cafe's home-cured sausages, smoked ham and beef tapa, all of which are sourced from traditionally raised free-range hogs and cattle from the Cordillera.

Perusers the gist of the cafe's vegetarian menu and to respect vegetarians, Abellon has acquainted cooking utensils (from ladles and chopping boards to pots and woks) for her vegetarian cuisine.

The cafe's cakes and breads also differ from those sold at every neighborhood bakery and store in La Trinidad.

Abellon and her helpers bake cupcakes (with clusters of blueberry cream, chocolate and sweet coconut, mushroom muffin, whole wheat scones and whole wheat nutty bread.

YOKANA BIA

CHEF at Cafe Mahogany's specialties, mushroom carbonara with home-made sausage.

THE SALAD Grows it roots from organic vegetables

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Lito Cheio Banal-Formoso

Home delivery

Baby Jennifer Xavier cuts Claudine's umbilical cord minutes after Xander's birth at Jan. 19.

Xander goes into first bath.

Text by Rowena C. Borgo
Photos by Marian Africa and Neil Lacanza

WHEN CLAUDINE ISA AND husband Neil Lacanza told their parents that they would have their first baby through home birth, the latter were skeptical.

"Since they believe that the only safe birth is a hospital birth, they told us that we were being irresponsible and putting the life of the baby in danger," Neil says.

Since no statistics show that the hospital is the only safe place to have a baby, Claudine was resolute with her decision. "When I became pregnant with our firstborn, Xavier, it never crossed my mind that I would deliver him in a hospital. I was oddly when I was a kid so going in and out of the hospital became a negative experience for me."

With caesarean sections, epidurals and heavy doses of pain medication becoming increasingly the norm in hospitals, Claudine and Neil think that women have been denied feeling and experiencing birth through their bodies.

Family affair

"Having a caesarean section is not fun. It takes a month to recover, and during the operation, a doctor will put you on drugs to make you unaware of the procedure. The beauty of the moment has been robbed from you, your baby and your husband. And the baby is lethargic. To me, it's inhuman. But with home birth, all our babies came out yelling and with their eyes open," Neil says.

For Claudine, the pregnancy and birth were "an intimate family affair."

When her friend Mayen Tiquio broached the idea of home birth, Claudine and Neil researched medical doctors, researched and talked to couples who had done it before.

"Within the comforts of your own home, you can have your family involved in the process," Claudine says. "You don't have to move from one room to another, be shaved, put up on stirrups. There are no interns checking on you. And you're not subjected to a debauchery of medical procedures."

Only the couple's daughter, Rosie, now 6, was delivered outside their home, for even then she was born in a birthing clinic with homelike setting.

Bernadette Solanes, a midwife for 14 years now, helped Claudine deliver Xavier, who's now 18 years old, and Xander, 3 months old.

"A carefully monitored home birth, with women who have been helped to stay low-risk through nutrition and good prenatal care, has been proven to be very safe and successful," says Solanes.

It makes sure that both mother and child will be safe from infection. Solanes says the instruments used in home birth are properly sterilized.

The 36-year-old licensed midwife worked for 12 years at Gentle Hands Clinic, which was managed by a group of Canadian midwives. When it closed down, Solanes opened a clinic in Quezon City. As a member of the Midwives Foundation of the Philippines, she attends conferences and workshops.

Prenatal visits may take place at the midwife's home or clinic or at the family's home. The latter is especially comforting for the family, as they are in their own surroundings and may be less hesitant to ask questions and get involved.

Prenatal visits are also a time for the midwife to get to know the family and friends who plan to be present at the birth.

Prenatal care for the pregnant woman, Solanes says, includes discussion of nutrition, exercises, and several physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as overseeing the healthy development of the fetus.

The midwife interviews the pregnant woman to determine if a high-risk situation exists. A high-risk woman has special medical needs. "If a high-risk situation arises, we may develop a home birth is not practical. I advise the family to seek the help of a doctor instead," says Solanes.

Preparation

A midwife also helps the family to prepare for the birth. The plan includes a list of what will be needed and what will occur during the birth: special music, candles, special religious or cultural rituals, who will be in attendance, which room in the house will be the birthing room, what kind of support the mom desires,

MORE >>

BIG SISTER Nasie helps weigh Quirin, whose birth weight was 3.4 kilos.

MOMMY'S first breastfeed

Home delivery

From page C1

ers. This enables the family to create the atmosphere they want.

In the safety and security of her own home, the mother is likely to be less inhibited about trying different labor positions and locations. She can sit on the toilet or go for a walk outside. She can eat or drink whatever she wants. When it's time to deliver, she can stress up whatever position she wants, on her side, squatting, sitting or kneeling.

"The most important factor in choosing home birth is that the mother has a strong desire to birth at home. Even though a home birth can save money, cost is not sufficient motivation to give birth at home," Nolasco says.

She adds that the most successful home birthers are those who have a strong commitment to it and who trust in their body's natural ability to birth. They are often willing to devote time and energy to finding the right birth practitioner, doing their own research and making smart decisions.

"I trained for the delivery day mentally and physically. I attended prenatal yoga and Lamaze together with Neil. It's like gym membership. During labor, you do the breathing which takes your mind off the pain. And a good midwife can help you achieve that," Claudine says.

Complications

Occasionally there will be complications during labor. A midwife is trained to recognize the early stages of complications and to take necessary actions. Transport to the hospital during the course of the birthing process may be necessary for the health of either the mother or baby.

The rate of cesarean deliveries is very low for midwives and home births, Nolasco says. Part of the reason for this low rate is that many home births are kept low risk by good care. Practitioners are selective in choosing. They want to take time with their families. They generally don't have the birth videos, which, ironically, often speeds it up.

"When a midwife and a mother build a personal relationship, this in turn helps the mother let go and have her baby more easily. Labor and childbirth are a natural process, and neither clinician to the mother or baby is indicated, this process is not transformed with enough drugs, medical equipment or cesarean intervention," Nolasco says.

Since home birth allows for full participation of family members, the opportunity is available for husbands or partners to "catch" their child as it is born.

Jes Chandler's niece, Neil, supported her husband during labor and acted as "baby guide" throughout the process. When Zavala was born, his brother Xavier cut his umbilical cord while sister Rosie took photos of the momentous occasion.

At home births, babies are usually immediately placed on the mom's stomach or breast, to provide warmth, warmth and immediate bonding between mom and baby.

Cost

Nolasco charges only P5,000, which includes her professional fee, the mother's medicines and supplies used in home birth. "But we paid her double. She did a great service for such a horrible rate," Neil says.

(In a survey done by Inquirer Research, the most popular hospitals in the country charge between P15,000 and P50,000, exclusive of doctor's fee and accommodation. The price also depends on whether the delivery is normal or by cesarean operation.)

After the baby is born, a midwife is still accessible for information and support. One continues to check in on the mother and baby for a certain time frame, although some midwives will continue to get calls for a much longer time.

Some families and midwives from latching themselves based on the joy and trust they shared in birth.

"This can be of great comfort during the postpartum period when many have questions or problems. And I'm proud to say that I've been a godmother to some of their children," Nolasco says.

For Claudine, childbirth is not just a natural biological process for the female body. When women can fully embrace their fears, their confidence, their pain and their intensely feminine power, they will give birth not only to a child, but also to a newfound sense of strength that will be their ally in all the years to come during her their child.

> Hospital procedures have denied women the experience of giving birth through their bodies

Tips for a successful home birth

- HAVE A SUPPORTIVE HUSBAND OR birthing partner.
- Have a good prenatal care and diet.
- Find an experienced midwife whom you trust and are comfortable with.
- Have a supportive backup doctor in a case by hospital.
- Have your midwife/childbirth coach/doctor on hand early in the labor.
- Prepare your bedroom and have all your birthing things ready.
- Practice Lamaze. Prepare yourself emotionally, mentally and physically.
- Have an assistant help your midwife if she doesn't have one.

What to prepare

- Birth shirt (I wore the same birth shirt for allergy three births.)
- Birthing stool (one of my midwife
- Big plastic sheet to line the floor
- Clear towels
- Baby bathtub, baby clothes and blanket
- Cutlery
- Small lamp (for the midwife to see the perineum)
- Soothing music
- Notebook and pen (Writing track of contractions)
- Midwife's checking equipment
- Ice packs

Claudine Ali

Young stars stress need for education

CELEBRITIES CARLA HUMPHries, Johanna "Kissy" Cobo, Miles Ocampo, Michael Flores and teen athlete Chito Tia know that being academic is one of the most rewarding pursuits in a young person's life.

KID-CEO, talent Hampshire, 18, who studies entrepreneurship is the reason for international education, keeps school a top priority despite her many commitments.

In fact, the sweet-as-apple silver young people like her to know their priorities and listen to their parents in dealing with problems.

Blue Eagles star player Chito Tia's hectic training schedule did not keep him from completing Management Engineering. He said all it needed was a lot of focus.

This allowed him to juggle schoolwork, basketball and membership to the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Young stars Miles Ocampo and Kissy Cobo of "Going Bulilit" and Michael Flores of "Super Inggo," also old are for television and not get in the way of their education.

Parents can let their kids also have a lot of great experiences like these young celebrities this school year with the help of Metrobank Credit Card. Yes the card for all academic requirements like enrollment fees, sports equipment, books, school trips.

Metrobank Credit Card's CashXtra Short Installment Plan provides fast cash as a minimum transaction of P1,000, with low interest monthly payments. Call 8705700, domestic toll-free 1-800-8885775 or any Metrobank branch nationwide.

THE STARS of "Going Bulilit" juggle TV work and education.

MICHAEL Flores, Miles Ocampo, Kissy Cobo of "Going Bulilit"

Programs for special children for 2007-2008

ENROLLMENT IS ONGOING until June 20 at Cupertinos Center for Special Children's day school, nonprofit day school run by the Benedictine Sisters of Benedict Children, Inc.

Established in 1983, Cupertinos is dedicated to serve children, adolescents and adults with special needs. It provides education, therapeutic and lifetime skills not available in regular schools and clinics.

Experience duly accredited by the Department of Education and has the status of a SPED (special education) elementary school. Admission age is 4-14 years.

The school also offers pre-vocational courses to give students skills that will enable them to be productive and earn gainful jobs. On-the-job training in culinary work, cooking, laundry and other skills is provided. Admission age for these programs is 15-20 years. Tel. 9294115.

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Rubio-Cabello

Rookie moms and birthing rooms

The journey to a memorable first-time birth experience begins with choosing the right OB-gyn

YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER ALL the firsts in your life.

I became a first-time mom in 1991. I can still remember how excited I was when I first found out I was pregnant. My husband and I were living in Hong Kong at that time and the first order of the day was to look for a competent OB-gyn whom we could trust and be comfortable with.

My first OB-gyn was a male, British doctor who had a thriving practice and hundreds of expat patients. He was okay but not too warm and approachable and so on my fourth month, we moved to a Portuguese doctor who ran a clinic in Tsi' ali (Macau Central). Hong Kong's business district. Dr. Lopes was very kind, attentive, professional but definitely no-nonsense. Used a lot of questions and he would patiently respond to each one. Not surprisingly, he had many Filipina patients, who were expatriate wives as well.

On my eighth month, my husband and I flew to Manila to await the arrival of our baby. There, I was under the care of a wonderful OB-gyne, Dr. Florante Camenga, who heads the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical City; he took excellent care of me and he eventually delivered all my three children.

Dr. Camenga gave me a selection of hospitals to choose from at that time—Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital (OLLMH), Cardinal Santos Medical Center (CSMC) and Medical City. Three of my children were born at OLLMH, one at CSMC and the last one at Medical City.

For some reason, that I don't remember now, I chose to deliver my baby at OLMH. My unraveling baby was at CSMC and Medical City.

The one thing that stood out from all my experiences, and especially when I was a rookie mom, was the care extended to me by the nursing staff and the room at OLMH. When you are a first-time mother, the care and support that you receive from your doctors, the medical staff, your family and your partner can really make or break that first experience.

Private rooms

The journey to a memorable first-time birth experience begins with discussing the right OB-gyn. Here are some important things to consider when choosing one or choosing to decide to move to a new one if you are not happy with your current OB-gyn.

• Get recommendations from your family doctor, friends or family members. This is the way we Pinoys normally do it and it is always a good idea to ask someone who has had some experience with the doctor you are considering.

• If you are using your company's health card, get a list of the OB-gyn's that your health card covers and ask around. Office mates are always a good source of information.

• Schedule a consultation with each of the doctors you are considering to evaluate their personality as well as the helpfulness of the staff (you'll be spending lots of their appointment scheduling. Don't just go to one, try and visit at least three. If you are not happy with your first choice, have a back-up. If you feel that the office visit didn't go smoothly, find another doctor whom you can feel more comfortable with.

• Consider is the key when choosing an OB-gyn. The doctor will examine the most intimate area of your body and you will want to feel comfortable asking the doctor questions that may embarrass you.

• Make sure to ask around for referrals but at the end of the day your your gut. You will be having a relationship with your OB-gyn at a crucial point in your life and it is a relationship that you may decide to keep all throughout your reproductive years so make sure to choose wisely and well.

Another important aspect you will need to consider is the hospital you will eventually deliver your baby in. The hospital's proximity to your home is a major consideration. With horrendous traffic jams occurring every day, it is important (and for your peace of mind) that you are able to get to the hospital in time!

I had three C-sections, but still found myself rushing to the hospital faster because each of my babies decided to come out one day earlier.

I really rip my hat to mommies who are able to deliver through the natural method and all the more with the use of the lactation method. I was very pleased to see that unlike in the '90s when I first became a mom, there are now many hospitals equipped with private birthing rooms where the moms can labor (and some actually deliver) in private.

One of the newest and nicest birthing rooms in town can be found at Makati Medical Center (MMC). The birthing room is nearly renovated and was used by Kris Aquino for a few hours before delivering her baby Josemari last April.

MMC's birthing room is equipped with the new state-of-the-art 4th floor delivery facilities. Bed which is made to accommodate virtually any choice women prefer. It is built for comfort no matter what position a laboring mommy decides to make.

The bed was recently purchased by the hospital and is the "Rolls Royce" of all birthing beds, as it spreads.

Since I had cesarian babies and never went into labor, I had little appreciation or understanding for the use of a birthing room. Then I realized that a private birthing room allowed a mommy a great deal of privacy, a large space for freedom of movement, and the support of a partner or spouse to be present at all times.

Privacy and comfort are essential to a woman's labor period, and MMC's birthing rooms and labor rooms promote both. I was glad to find out that the labor rooms here only put in two rooms at a time. Add that to the fact that MMC is known for its tradition of excellence, caring and expertise it's no wonder that Kris, even if she eventually had a C-section herself, chose to deliver her baby here.

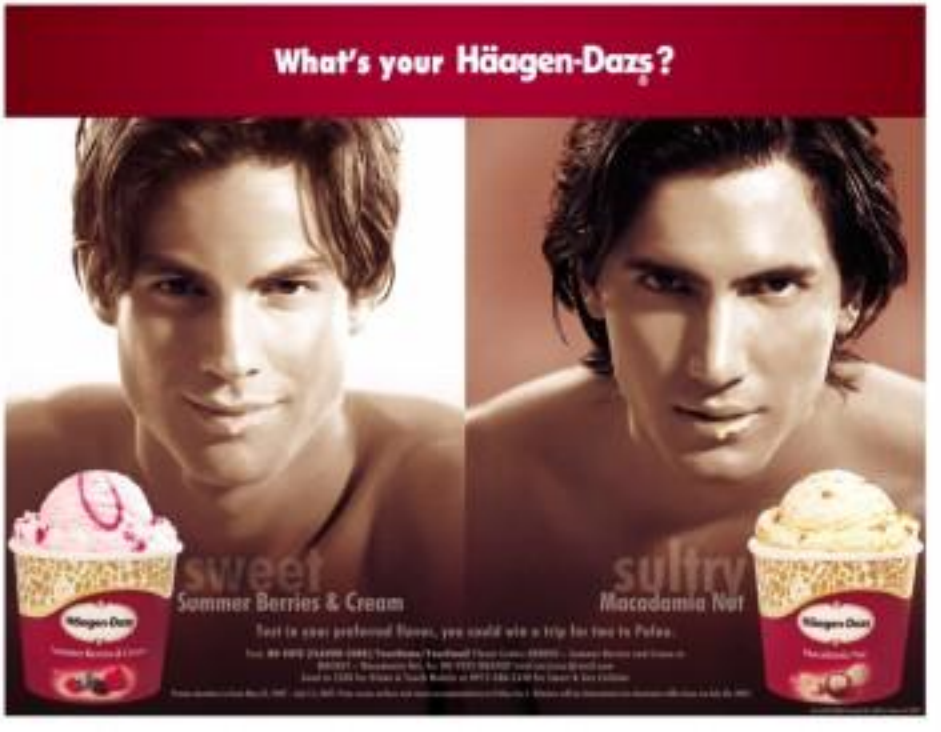
Mommies who wish to know more about how to give their babies a good night's sleep are invited to the "First Baby Bedtime Expo" sponsored by Johnson & Johnson at Market! Market! on June 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Dr. Michael Yam, a sleep expert will talk about sleep disorders and provide you ways how you and your baby can get a good night's sleep. Freebies and loads of fun are in store for early mommy registrants.

E-mail the author at carlphilrubio@gmail.com

DR. ANNABELLE Albarracin and the Rolls Royce of all birthing beds

THE BIRTHING room of Makati Medical Center is newly renovated and was used by Kris Aquino for a few hours before delivering her baby Josemari last April.



Store helps save Philippine wildlife

MAKILALAS, THE LEO-INVERSIBLE stuffed animal shop opened to biggest store in Bonifacio Highstreet. To highlight the opening was a birthday show presenting stuffed animal fashions by Animalated and guest fashion by Cinderella Bala, Gabbiani (Coach) and Hot Sox.

In addition to providing fun and stimulating the imagination and creativity of children, teens and adults alike, Animalated strives to foster a genuine affection for people and for real animals through its stuffed animals.

A concrete expression of this concern is Animated's commitment to help save Philippine wildlife through the help of Pawsi (Philippine Association of Wildlife Veterinarians Inc.). "Pawsi is a group of animal doctors that advocates the care and protection of Philippine wildlife. Animalated has committed to help in their efforts by contributing a dollar or its equivalent for every stuffed animal sold," says Belinda Ilo.

CJ JOSINA of Ayala Land, Animalated marketing officer Belinda Ilo, Janet Consunji of Cinderella, Ben Alonzo, Dr. Rosalita Lim of Pawsi and Dr. Bernardito of Manila Zoo

Store during the Animalated opening were CJ Josina of Ayala Land, Janet Consunji and Malou de Veneria of Cinderella, and Ben Alonzo.

Visit Animalated at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Shangri-La Mall, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia and Trinoma in Robinsons Galleria.

Instant employment for infotech students

INFORMATICS GRADUATES NOW HAVE direct access to local and international employment opportunities. With this information Global Employment Service website, students and graduates can regularly check and respond to IT job openings worldwide.

Informatics is an international conglomerate established in 1982. The Singapore-based educational institution has over 500 centers in 44 countries worldwide. In the Philippines, Informatics has campuses in Interligent Cybercenter, Alabang, Mandaluyong, Cubao, Pasig, Eastwood, North Edsa, and Cubao, Quezon City, and the Universe Belt in Manila, as well as training centers nationwide.

Accredited by the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the specialized IT training has paved the way for renewed hope for millions of hopefuls. Students easily evolve into IT specialists while others even gain enhanced skills with the completion of any course.

With the launch of the Global Employment Service website, students and graduates can now shorten from the long list of job opportunities available.

PRIS collaborations with international organizations like Oracle and Opus IT services, graduates and students can gain access to the global employment network.

A simple login procedure will immediately find the one to the latest job postings along with options to instantly post resumés and job applications online.

For quality employment placements, graduates will be evaluated according to their skills, interests and strengths.

For more information, visit www.informaticsonline.com.

Nokia 6300 Takes The Streets

Stylish. Slim. Striking.

Qualities that best define the Nokia 6300.

Sexy and stunning models recently highlighted the fashionable qualities of the Nokia 6300 by strutting their stuff on the streets, bars and malls of Alabang, Makati, Ortigas and Quezon City.

For 3 days, models walked, paraded, undressed and posed in various locations throughout the metro, all of them dressed in chic silver garb, each flaunting the stylish Nokia 6300 in hand.

They first invaded the streets of Ayala Avenue and Ortigas. Then they went to the streets and malls of Glorietta, Greenbelt, Podium, Shangri-la and SM Mall of Asia. They also went to the bars, restos and coffeeshops of the hottest nightspots in Alabang, Greenhills, Makati, The Fort and Quezon City.

By showcasing to striking features in a unique fashion show, the Nokia 6300 has proven to be the perfect mobile phone that fashion lovers find can only exist in the metro. The sleek and stylish Nokia 6300 has made its statement; one can create sophistication even with simplicity, because true style never shouts.

Sunday LIFESTYL

KALINISAN

Rachy is bamboo-sold

Cuna said he went around to see everything made of 'kawayan,' things usually found on the roadside but hardly noticed

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rodel Rovero

THE TITLE IS A challenge to the tongue, but the show is easy on the eye, though that is an understatement.

For "Kawayanihan," well-known stylist Rachy Cuna has brought his considerable imagination and artistry to bear on a lowly grass, the often unappreciated bamboo.

The show, ongoing until June 14 at the lobby of the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City is a collection of 14 installations that underscores the versatility of the bamboo.

The exhibit is part of the extravaganza of the Hotel's Festival Month, which this year has International for its theme.

Cuna said he came up with the idea by combining kawayan and kapaypayan, Filipino for cooperation and also the name of the world famous award winning

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KABLOG-BILOGAN

SAMAYAMAN

BAHAYLAN

SACHI! Cana is brought in a carret stage under a colorful umbrella by Rajasthan dancers.

KAMAKAY

BAHAGAYMAN

Rachy is bamboo-sold

Continued from D1

cultural tongue that performed during the formal opening of the show.

He hoped the title would convey the values of self-reliance, cooperation and sustainability that Filipinos possessed or aspired to have.

Handscript pieces

Using bamboo and products made from different parts of the country, Cana's creative hands transformed ecofriendly items like the traditional sleeper, serving bas, net bag or other livestock and local's existing basket into decorative pieces that could be given pride of place anywhere in the most opulent of surroundings.

"I even invented an ear-cupholding mode of bamboo," Cana explained his process of collection and elimination. "Things you usually find on the roadside for bamboo notice."

He then isolated the help of fine, queer collaborators, artists and craftspeople Rancio Mial, Bobby Castillo and Easy Carmona to provide the rest of the materials he needed like traditional weaves and stuff the objects he wanted—both covered in tiny cut pieces of bamboo leaves, bamboo ways formed into different shapes, etc.

The finished pieces were 70 percent bamboo and 30 percent other things—glass, metal, paper, palm fronds—but all of them Filipino in origin.

To give the collection a single, unified image, Cana gave the pieces pottery beginning with the letter B—"Kabilog-bilogan," "Kadkaduguan," "Bahay," "Bandalan," even "Kabuggahan" for an elaborate arrangement of cabbage roses, bamboo leaves, twigs and berries.

And then inspired in the vibrant colors of Filipino fiestas. Bright orange and reds, light greens, subtle yellow tones used just to distract from the size of the pieces, the bamboo, but to draw attention to it and underscore the many creative ideas it could lend itself to.

In keeping with the evening's theme and a tradition in Cana shows, guests were greeted with a silver, bamboo-shaped brooch. At the end of the show, they left with woven finds of bears, handed out by Cana and friends in pairs of marriage for seven Filipinos.

KAPITAHYALAN

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WESTERN UNION

Summer sale on home furniture and accents

THE LIF BUSINESS PLAZA MEGA ITS SUMMER Madness Sale until May 31. It's a.m.-7 p.m., including holidays, with 30 percent to 70 percent discounts on selected items.

Accessorize your home with furniture fashioned from bamboo, rattan or wood, or antique pieces from Restwood Bible furniture or from The Courtyard. There are 30 other stores for home and office furniture, interiors, fabrics, furnishings and accessories, plus catalogs of masters and contemporary artists from fine art galleries.

To redeem the bride's secret to HFC Types if orders, you can find hybridized chairman, plates etched with gold, colored glasses and many other unique decorative items. A cupid and silk lampshade in different shapes and height is a star product of Celestial Lighting & Interiors Corp., while hand-embroidered pillow throw pillows are available at Avenue Goodhood's Silk Cocoon or Embroidery.

LIF Business Plaza is at 2 J.O Harrison Cor ner Dr., Barangay Bagumbayan, Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call 8988772.

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the instructor

Helena Schippen is a Dutch National heading the retreat center of Starvision in Hidden Valley Australia.

Testimonials:

[illegible]

Floral cookware lines add color to kitchen

[illegible] MAKER OF HIGH-QUALITY stainless-steel cookware, has come up with new and unique products mixed after colorful flowers.

The Ivy line of nonstick frying pans has classic Teflon coatings on the living surface for utmost convenience and ease in the kitchen work. It has a silicone handle that is highly resistant to heat.

The silicon protects stainless cooking in in Rocky Blue, Spruce Avocado, Hot Pink and Sunshine Yellow.

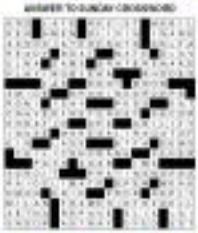
The Ivy frying pan is available in 24-cm, 28-cm, 26-cm, 30-cm, 28-cm and 30-cm to meet any and every need, making it perfect for use even in the oven.

The Princess line of Teflon nonstick frying pans and additional cookware features round exterior cooking. Its riveted handles provide an elegant safety and convenience.

The Princess line includes 16-cm saucepan, 20-cm saucepan, 24-cm fry pan, 24-cm saucepot and 30-cm wok. Premier also comes in a complete five-piece and seven-piece set.

The Deep series is made of silicon polymer exterior coating and classic Teflon nonstick coating on the inside. It offers a complete set of frying pans, super heat 16-cm saucepan, 20-cm saucepot, 24-cm saucepan, 24-cm wok, 24-cm saucepot and 30-cm wok.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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Wired and Ready to Go

As the country's next CBD, Bonifacio Global City is fully equipped with amenities that encourage the wireless lifestyle. At par with the technology-savvy of the modern urbanite, several areas in Bonifacio Global City are Wi-Fi hotspots, allowing for high-speed internet surfing – an unprecedented feat in this era of efficient technology.

Moreover, plans to fully wire the city are underway and soon enough, internet surfing will be possible at any point within the territory.

Complementing the technological advancement is the fact that a 25-hectare portion of Bonifacio Global City is a PEZA-accredited IT Zone. "As an IT Zone, Bonifacio Global City's IT and BPO locators enjoy generous benefits like tax holidays and other incentives," says Henry Yap, Head of Property Planning and Design for Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC). "It is also easier for foreign companies to bring in their foreign executives because of the ease in obtaining work permits. The companies or locators also get incentives when they purchase local or export products." Yap explains.

Breathing Life Into The City, 24 Hours A Day!

In running a CBD like Bonifacio Global City, the value of a steady supply of power and water cannot be underestimated. As expected, Bonifacio Global City again exceeds expectations and boasts of world-class utilities. It is equipped with an underground drainage detention structure that is intended to prevent floods in Bonifacio Global City and adjoining areas. Its fiber optic cabling network supports a wide range of telephone, video and data applications. Electric power is supplied by Meralco through underground lines powered by several Meralco power sub-stations, reducing the possibility of power outages and ensuring round-the-clock electric service to residents and locators such as RPSA, The Bonifacio Water Corporation, with its water reservoirs, water and sewerage systems service sitting water presents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and ensures the collection and treatment of sewage water according to acceptable environmental standards.

Bonifacio Global City benefits from an underground LPG system which is owned and operated by Bonifacio Gas Corporation, a joint venture between FBDC and Pilipinas Shell. "We adapted the system from designs abroad, particularly Hongkong, and other developed countries," says Edwin Lasat, General Manager for Bonifacio Gas Corporation. The underground system has proven beneficial in terms of its safety and reliability.

The attractiveness of Bonifacio Global City is further enhanced by world-class city and property management services provided by the Bonifacio Estate Services Corporation (BESC). BESC's BEMS is responsible for the enforcement of rules and regulations, security and traffic management, city cleanliness, maintenance of landscaping and the thousands of trees around Bonifacio Global City, and providing emergency response teams and support services. Bonifacio Global City has its own private ambulance and state of the art fire truck and support system.

Being the first large scale development in the Philippines to be fully equipped with modern world-class utilities and efficient city management to another testament to Bonifacio Global City as a City that Works!

Where Work Meets Play

True to the city's promise of a work-life balance, Bonifacio Global City offers an array of leisure spots to cater to everyone's recreational needs. Individuals seeking high-energy entertainment spots will enjoy the thrilling excitement of The Fort Spoon, where they can dance the night away at Embassy Club or sit down for good food, drinks and the company of friends at the area's many dining spots such as The Good Earth Tea Room, L'Opera, Grandeur, La Strada and Fuse 1. As an emerging retail mecca, Bonifacio Global City is home to well-known brands, concept stores and unique dining places at Bonifacio High Street, a 40 meter wide and nearly a kilometer long park, dotted with interactive art pieces, which starts at Serenia and stretches up to Third Avenue. At Serenia, you can find one-of-a-kind restaurants such as Conti's, Silk, Dan, Moretti's, and Tea and Therapy; unique shops on the second floor that carry gift and home items, accessories, and other goods such as Lana, Peppered Cherry, Ina Cruz, Bali Home, and Rustic; various art galleries and service stores such as Nail Tropics and Fil-Lab; plus those that cater to kids and families such as Dyanbreez and Blow Up Babies. Bonifacio High Street, on the other hand, has popular restaurants and store of flagship stores and trendy brands. Among these include: Mini Stop Stube, Texas Roadhouse Grill, Wine Pod, Panna, The Face Shop, Sushi, and other restaurants, coffee shops and retail shops.

Jun Bocaya, Head of Commercial Operations for Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation, boasts of the city's unique leisure offerings. "We have Speed Zone where you can do go-karting. We also have a sports camp," he says. "You can also bike around the city," he adds, referring to Bonifacio Global City's designated bike routes. In the midst of panoramic views, leisure is not just an extracurricular activity. It's a necessity for the live-work-play lifestyle.

The lights never go out in the City of Ideas.

Bonifacio Global City
Home of passionate minds

With sturdy power and the infrastructure to share ideas on a global scale, Bonifacio Global City is fast becoming the home of choice for 24-hour operations. Bonifacio Global City also offers private clubs or activities to help you unwind so there is a blurring of right and duty work and play. This is a place where passionate minds can live, work, play, create and re-create 24/7.

For inquiries on Bonifacio Global City, please call 818-3401. For lot sales, please call 757-6116.
You may also email us at info@bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph or log on to www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph

COLORFUL costumes at the finale of Flamenco Show

Gypsy-dancing and other adventures in España!

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Picture the Sea Princess dancing the fiery flamenco—in flowing ruffled skirt and with blonde wig

VAMOS A BAILAR EN España! The raw passion of flamenco is best learned in the heart of the Andalusian region of Spain. Andalucia has a rich and diverse culture, and an artistic heritage central to many of the world's best flamenco artists and schools. Seville and Granada are some of the more famous dance meccas, but a little gaulet town called Jerez in the City of Cadiz is home to the Andalucian Flamenco Center.

To fast track my improvement in Flamenco, currently at a beginner level that is more evolution than skill, I thought it would be great to join an intensive marathon in Spain. The Gitanjaro Cruz Juarez & Art Center (tel 0917-336-8172 or check out www.gitanjaro.geocities.com) organized a group to go to Spain and experience the forces of that most passionate dance.

I was lured into the trip from watching the advance Flamenco class of sultry instructor Gitanjaro Grey. After my belly-dancing class, I would be so impressed while sitting in the back and admiring the lunges, sans belly, beaded scarves and other accessories that effortlessly swiveled in their own five seconds.

Flamenco is a passionate mix of flowing ruffled skirts, graceful arm movements and the powerful stomping of the feet, all in a beautiful choreography. It was all enough to convince me to head to sunny Spain!

And so, dropping everything (including my husband and kids), I headed off with Gitanjaro and several classmates for almost a month of classes. The group had, of course, separate side and weekend trips but the two-week flamenco-with-linguistics in Jerez was the main focus.

Sun energy

Barcelona's organic energy, with the exotic mirrored features of its most famous architect, Antoni Gaudi, was instantly felt as we walked around the city streets, both belly bared-all with navel and tattooed midriffs and, as eagerly designed as every corner Zara and Bimba and the city's version of Ilhan Mare, El Corte Ingles. We loaded up on June, flamenco shoes, skirtings and the usual souvenirs for pondering.

Having been amply warned about the notorious gypsies preying on tourists around the famous Las Ramblas, we held on to our bags

(TURN TO E2)

SEAFOOD dining alfresco at the Las Ramblas market

FLAMENCO master Gloria Galdeo plus lessons with students Sea Princess, Magpoc Libcon, Salem Matoza, Vikki Santos, Frey Galleon and Rose Arroyo

CAMILIANS' Grey Dunes & Art Center Flamenco students at Rockwell Club

GREAT tapas and sangria at Casa Cuesta Restaurant in Triana with Norman Grey

Gypsy-dancing and other adventures in

FLAMENCO posing by the Cathedral of the Saviour at Jerez

FLAMENCO shopping at Tamara Shop with mannequin Frey Galleon

MAGNIFICENT lights on the Instituto Cervantes Building

PASSIONATE Flamenco instructors Gregorio Grey, Gloria Galdeo and Ana Blanco Barea

CHARISMATIC view Abat Pinos touring Spain

HERE, fountains at the Alhambra Palace in Granada

Historic Seville

Seville is a historic city of Seville. I highly recommend that tourists take the two hour tour on a luxuriously yellow double decker bus, to get familiar with the place. You can hop on and off the bus all day for the same fare. Have lunch in Casa Cuesta Restaurant in Triana. It was our hands-down favorite.

We caught a traditional bullfight at our way out of Spain. This bloodiest sport may be at the top of the list of animal rights NGOs, but is still popular among aficionados. Inside from the bull, I also felt sorry for the blindfolded horses in the ring. Truly, this is one of those that is not for everyone.

We watched several flamenco shows to really admire and be in total awe with the strength, energy and passion of the dancers, many of whom have been dancing since they learned to walk. So the Cinnamon Grey Dance Studio prepares for its third annual recital in November, we can all be proud of the enthusiastic city the dancers will bring to the program.

After traipsing through Spain, I was just so happy to arrive back home. My dependable husband had produced a wonderful anniversary gift—a new Mac laptop with all my old files! It turns out that he is as passionate about backing up files as I am passionate about flamenco! Have a buen rapido de regreso! Hasta mañana!

E-mail me at angelrivas@inquirer.com.ph

Travel Briefs

Shop and fly to Singapore

Singapore Tourism Board (Philippines) (T: 817-36-36/fax: 01-36/E-mail: Power Plant Mall/not you shop, shop, dine for a chance to fly to Singapore for free. Shopping Spree, Flying Free! ends today, May 27. Shop in any participating store in Power Plant Mall and a single purchase receipt and that total P2,000 can get you a raffle coupon of STB 4's registration counter at Tenth Level. If I came Tax price for STB 4's raffle is a trip to Singapore 3 days/2 nights with accommodation, among others. Ongoing until July 31 in Singapore is The Great Singapore Sale.

New alliance

Northwest Airlines has signed a cooperative agreement with China Airlines. The agreement between Northwest and the Taiwan-based airline includes enhanced frequent flyer benefits and lounge access for Northwest's World Perks members, along with convenient electronic ticketing and one-stop check-in for passengers connecting between Northwest and China Airlines flights. It takes effect Aug. 1.

Extended promo

Mactan Beach Resort's "The Great Mactan Breeze" promo is ongoing until July 31. For only P1,200++ per night, guests will enjoy overnight deluxe room accommodation for two persons, buffet breakfast, refreshing dive, use bottle of water on first dive, etc. Mactan Beach Resort is in Lapu-Lapu City. (T: 31-4341 50/63-(Manila) 633-2349999 (Cebu) Fax No. 63-(32) 340-3560/Manila) 633-2349333 (Cebu), e-mail sales@mactanbeachresort.com.ph or reservations@mactanbeachresort.com.ph or visit our site: www.shangrila.com/resort.com.

New management

Hotel Fontelina in Batangas City has a new management team headed by new chief operating officer Sonny Caballes. Other officers are Joel Cotilong, operations manager, and Myleen Villanueva, director of sales and marketing. Fontelina is owned and operated by Fontelina Corporation, Inc., whose CEO is Ricardo Fernandez Jr., owner and founder of the Children Group of Restaurants. The hotel opened in 2000. The new team promises Fontelina Batangas a colorful but a lively experience and memorable.

Leisure living

Alta Vista de Boracay (tel. 6680300, www.altavistaboracay.com), a 30-hectare exclusive residential development, consists of 180 villas spread across five hectares of prime land in Boracay, Aklan. It is set near the world-class golf resort Fairways and Blue Water Resort Boracay. Alta Vista will expand the residential project as their investments earn when they are away from the island, while guests get an effortless island access.

HAWK, the native sailboat commonly found in Boracay Island, is a narrow hulled boat with outriggers and sails.

EL LAGA de Tio Pepe flamenco dancers in Jerez

GUITARIST and senior Jose Galvez de Valle performs while Rose and Ginajane dance

SULTRY Ginajane Grey dancing at the jazz bar

Espana!

FACADE of the bullring of La Maestranza in Seville

FLAMENCO Show at Seville

MUSEO de Hamon with bars of all shapes and sizes

GRACEFUL matador impresses the audience at Madrid

GIGANTIC Sherry wine oak barrels at Tio Pepe Wine Cellar in Jerez

Canon ImageNation Summer '07

Canon Launches New PowerShot, Digital IXUS, EOS, and PhotoDV Camcorders

Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. brings digital imaging to a new level as it introduces a new line of models for the PowerShot, Digital IXUS, PhotoDV, and EOS Digital categories in the Canon ImageNation Summer '07 product exposition.

"Canon celebrates its 10th anniversary in the Philippines this year. We also recently launched our corporate campaign – the Canon ImageNation, which reflects both Canon's capabilities and aspirations of being a total imaging company and more importantly, Canon's relationship with the image-loving Filipino," said Ramon Arbolelo, CMPI President and CEO. "With these new line-up of products, we are confident that the Filipinos will be well-equipped to capture all the best images of summer."

Canon Technology Excellence

DIGIC is the digital imaging core behind the PowerShot, Digital IXUS, EOS, and DV camcorders products being launched. This exclusive imaging processor improves internal image processing, which results in faster speed, more accurate auto-focus and improved image quality.

The **DIGIC III** Image Processor is the latest advancement in Canon's proprietary DIGIC technology. Found in the newest PowerShot and Digital IXUS cameras, it boasts of the new Face Detection AF/AE, which intelligently detects up to nine faces in the frame and sets the most suitable focus point.

Developed especially for the new EOS-1D Mark III, Canon's newest technology, **Dual DIGIC III**, gives the camera two of Canon's newest processing units, working in parallel, to dramatically enhance image quality and deliver the speed and power needed to combine 10 million pixels and the ability to capture 10 frames per second.

The Canon **DIGIC DV**, unique to Canon camcorders, ensures appropriate color processing for video and stills. **DIGIC DV II** on the other hand, found exclusively in Canon HD camcorders and the new LR/HV/HF series camcorder, is optimized for demanding operations, increasing battery life by 100% and further improving noise reduction and color handling.

Canon PowerShot: A great shot every time

Canon updates its fast-selling PowerShot range with new and affordable models – the **PowerShot A460, A550, A560, A570 IS**, and **TX1**. The PowerShot **A460** is available in three new colors: silver, blue and red. A selectable Grid Line Display on the LCDs helps with shot composition, while the 2.0" screen size makes it easy for family members to view photos together without having to connect the camera to a PC.

The **PowerShot A560** and **A570 IS** feature a 2.5" LCD screen, making it easier to frame tricky shots or share image playback with friends, while an added feature in the **PowerShot A560** affords users a whopping 19 shooting modes. The **PowerShot A570 IS** also features the Optical Image Stabilizer technology, which ensures blur-free images in low-light conditions and at full zoom.

The ice-skinned **PowerShot TX1** has the ability to capture high quality images and high definition or 1280x720 video resolution. Its credit card sized body and vertical orientation also distinguishes it from the rest of the PowerShot models. It boasts of 7.1 megapixel resolution and 10x optical zoom lens with Optical Image Stabilizer that helps significantly reduce the blurring effects of camera shake that can occur at long zoom settings or during long exposures.

Canon Digital IXUS: Where style meets substance

The **IXUS 70 and IXUS 75** are the slimmest IXUS digital cameras to date. Using a 7.1 megapixel CCD sensor, Canon has further slimmed down the new new IXUS cameras without sacrificing image quality.

The **IXUS 70 and 75** feature Multiple Face Detection to ensure spectacular group photos by automatically detecting up to 9 faces in the frame. They also come with a 2.5-inch and 3.6-inch "Pure Colour" LCD, respectively. The "Pure Colour" LCD is capable of producing a wide colour range, highly precise images and provides a wide viewing angle. The new LCD monitor is also resistant to scratches, fingerprints and dirt and reduces reflected light for easier viewing of images even in bright outdoor situations.

In addition, both IXUS models feature the evolved Red-Eye Correction during playback. They also have the new Auto ISO Shift tool that counters image blur due to hand or camera shake by adjusting ISO speeds until blurring is diminished.

DV Camcorders: Quality with Ease of Use

Canon introduces three new models in its popular ZR series camcorders – the **ZR810i**, **ZR830** and **ZR800 MiniDV Camcorder**. The 2.5 inch widescreen LCD (112,000 pixels) found in all three models allows users to easily compose shots that can be shown on a widescreen TV.

The new ZR series camcorders offer genuine Canon 35x optical zoom lens optics (400x digital zoom), which is Canon's longest optical zoom on a camcorder to date. The added Smooth Zoom feature reduces the erratic, jerky zoom techniques, smoothing out the process by selecting from one of three pre-set zoom speeds.

Canon also unveils three new models in its DV line of camcorders – the **DC310**, **DC320**, and **DC330**. These compact camcorders have 35x optical zoom lenses and 2.5 inch widescreen LCDs. The lower-end **DC310** and **DC320** (no 680,000 pixel screen), while the **DC330** consists of a 1 megapixel CCD for still shooting. The **DC320** and **DC330** also include a QuickStart function allowing less than 3 second start up time.

The **Canon DC50** is Canon's new premiere DVD camcorder. It uses a 3 megapixel CCD and Canon's Digic DV II image processor to handle footage. The DC50 features 10x optical zoom lens with optical image stabilization allowing long shots without a tripod.

Digital IXUS: The Stylish Professional

Canon unveils its flagship and newest professional DSLR camera – the new 10.1 megapixel **EOS-1D Mark III**. It features the new Dual DIGIC III Imaging Processor for ultra-fast processing speed that can capture up to 10 frames per second. Power-packed with other high performance features such as EOS-Integrated Cleaning System, 100,000-cycle shutter durability and 19-point cross-type AF system, the EOS-1D Mark III is truly the pinnacle of photographic excellence with no compromises in shooting performance.

All the new products are backed by Canon's 70 years of experience and expertise in the imaging industry. It is because of this that Canon can assure consumers that the products it offers are best in class. Canon provides consumers the right tools to capture, store, and share all the important experiences and memories this summer.

A wedding in Wales

HOWLYWEDS Kirsty Butler and Roberto Doria

Guests were wined and dined before and after the wedding for three days

By Maurice Arnaiz

POPULAR MAN ABOUT town Roberto Doria said goodbye to bachelorhood and uttered "till death do us part" to pretty Kirsty Butler during a fun afternoon ceremony at Castell Malgwyn Hotel, a centuries-old Georgian manor built in 1795, in Llechryd, Wales, pahanggan.

The sun shone in Llechryd for the first time that week when the ceremony was held.

Roberto met his future bride when Kirsty, a British and a teacher at the British School, joined his yoga class. It was serious dating from then on. The couple was engaged for two years.

Roberto and Kirsty opted to take their vows in Wales. The couple flew to Wales early to help in the wedding preparations.

A week later, Roberto's mom, the adorable Maribel Cuteg Doria, followed, first flying to Rome to meet Amor Monet Rocio Schwem and her beautiful family.

They joined together to Bristol then traveled by land to Newcastle Emlyn, West Wales, en route to Castell Malgwyn where all the invitees were billeted.

Marriage Rooms

At exactly two o'clock in the afternoon, dubbings, the chosen invitees were led to the Marriage Room where the wedding ceremony was held.

Kirsty looked radiant in a custom-designed champagne cream silk faille gown, studded with Swarovski crystals in gamet and charmeuse and tiny purple beads.

She was escorted by stepfather Tom Channing. Little nephew Jack Terry acting bravely, looked cute in his silver gray tails and red cravat.

The maiden of the bride wore a light gray chiffon gown with silver threads.

Roberto was great looking in his jaba embroidered barong Tagalog, while his mother was in a two-piece jaba-embroidered gown embellished with tiny pearls and sequins.

The ceremony was definitely touching and uplifting. "Congratulatory socializing," as the Welsh call it, was held outside the lawn area for the ceremony. Wine flowed endlessly. The mass drink Pimms and yummy canapés were served, pahanggan.

Then everyone moved to the grand ballroom where guests dined on excellent Scottish salmon served three ways and Slow Roast Leg of Pemeli Lamb with honey-glazed carrots and rosemary jus in cubbis overflowing with ethereal potatoes. It's divagrest and roses, all from the garden paradise of Ma Me, the bride's mother.

A separate menu for vegetarians (The newlyweds are vegetarians) consisted of tomato, mozzarella, basil stacks and Vegetable Wellington. Chocolate Profiteroles served with Chantilly cream and Classic Raspberry Parfait rocked the guests drooling.

After the toasts and emotional speeches by the groom and best (brother of the

A WEDDING FI

RAYMOND Mejico

JOEY Herrera

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PALS for over 20 years: Mats Fernandez with Ricky Ledesma (standing), Peter Yabut, Dubbie Yabut and Tommy Villanueva

AFTER the wedding ceremony: Tom Chuting, the bride's stepfather, newlyweds Kristy Butler and Roberto Dario Pio Chuting, mother of the bride, and Maribel Dario, mother of the groom

A wedding . . .

Viewpage F1

bride, and a touching message from the groom's mother, the newlyweds donned a "farm salad" rehearsed in Manila and "executed to perfection." Then everyone rocked the dance floor to the sounds of the '80s, all night.

Fireworks display

Guests left the dance floor briefly to rush outside to watch an awesome display of fireworks. Then it was dance, drink, dance and boogie some more.

Tom and Mr. Chuting didn't leave anything to chance. They took care of even the tiniest details, siblings, including the cousins on each table with a note that read: "Please help us capture some candid moments during our celebration. We thank you for sharing this special occasion with us."

It seems the British can outdo Filipinos in hospitality.

Guests were wined and dined to their hearing and traditional notes along the sea coast by three days chatting with friends before the wedding, and ending with a bunch of "farewell" at the bride's parents' house overlooking a valley where everyone said their goodbyes.

The three-day hosting by the Chutings gave Kristy, who has been away for five years, an opportunity to bond again with relatives from England, pals from London, Rome, Guernsey, Corsica, Spain, Guildford, Gloucester, and classmates from Oxford, Cardiff and London.

With a mix of nationalities that also included Belgian, Spanish and Romanian, it was like a United Nations event, palangges!

Manila reception

Back in Manila, the couple was honored with an intimate reception at the Dusit Hotel as Rizalle Bolero by Robert's mom and siblings.

The venue, dressed up by Maribel's gang, Edith Oliveros, Johnny Padilla and Rose Hidoc of Love Garden, was adorned with beautiful flowers and lit with lychees and green candles. There were seven orchard tables—obviously the newlyweds' number—dressed in lace from damask tablecloths to the top, baroque pearl.

Those who failed to join them in White came in full force, like cousins Joyce, Anton and Eva Garag and their sister Alina Garag, with husband Eduardo, who came with their Mona Caimoso Garag. Brother Bruno who served as host Hong Kong, taking time out from his hectic Louis Vuitton schedule. Major World's Rong Bravo and wife Cecile. Grunge and Barb Garag. Xander Garag Showman with husband Michael, who jetted in from Australia, and vivaciously adorable Frinda Ibarra, straight from Boracay.

Close pals included Tweetie de Leon and Mon Gonzales, Bess and Jobbie Yabut, New World's Monique Trinidad Yulo, Betty and Jonah Ledesma, Bibit Fernandez, Tommy and Mia Villanueva, Jose Barrera, Pete and Tinsay Aure, Alina Lucias, Wicky and Tina Gaisano, Ramon Ramos, Raymond and Tessie Mapua, Arlie Ardaniel, Thomas and Lisa Syvip, plus so many like these, palangges.

Esquela caterers Tin Khaw and Eva Mae prepared those buffet tables of different cheese menus—Continental, Spanish and Filipino. Estrella Barcenilla's florist paid extra to fill and secure the petals and dahlias such to create a real level of Bianca Kategirl.

The eclectic dessert table was named long "Yo-Ho-Ho," with famed cast of characters.

Everyone then toasted his glass of bubbly and sealed the newlyweds' fate of two words, palangges.

Cheers, palangges!

IN WALIS: Tom Butler with Tom Chuting, Robert and Kristy Dario, Jack Terry

MIKAEL and Mike Schramm, the newlyweds; Jack Terry, ring bearer; Maribel Dario and Monet Recio Schramm

TWEETIE Gonzales

Mon Gonzales

Sunday Crossword

PREBBER CROSSWORD! By Frank A. Longo — **TO RAMS**

answers on page C3

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements, submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and jpeg images along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to miss.lifestyle@gmail.com *or fax them to 896-2305 Maker's Day. E-mail to* lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. *A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and in order of receipt.*

ROA-GARCIA

Gil Roa, son of Ilaw resident and Andy in Roa, will wed Irene Garcia, daughter of Sebastian I. who, de Garcia, on May 20 at The Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi, Tandang Sora, QC.

The Priestly designed the bridal gown using ivory bridal satin and silk chiffon. It has a corporation silhouette extending to a chapel train. A floral headwreath pattern is in coral pink and stranded with crystals will adorn the gown. A 20-ft veil of double-width illusion tulle held by Swarovski crystal pins completes the ensemble. Reception will follow at the Crystal Garden, Pinewood Gardens, QC.

LUI-LIM

Jonathan Lui, son of Sean and Rebecca Lui, will wed Mary Ann Lim, daughter of Alfredo and Mary Rose Lim, on June 9 at Sts. Ann-Hertz Parish, Sta. Ana Avenue, Davao City. Reception will follow at Villa Grand Plaza, Tulip Drive, Davao City. The bride will wear a ballet duchess satin gown with Japan-cut bead embellishment, accentuated with light and dark pink organza from the bodice to the very full skirt with dropped waistline and peplum. The gown, designed by Ada Ibarra Bit of Dish du Davao, also features a semi-cathedral train.

VERANO-TANYAG

Eric Nilsen P. Valenzuela, son of Estelina and Benito Valenzuela, will wed Stella Cabrera M. Tanyag, daughter of Reynaldo and Estelina Tanyag, on June 1 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Los Baños, Laguna. Reception will be held at Royal Palm Leisure Park in Los Baños.

OBEDOZA-MEJIA

John Paul Obedoza, son of Paul and Delia Obedoza will wed Melissa Mejia, daughter of Ramon and Melissa Mejia on June 9, 2007, at the Birhen de Caysio Parish, Philam Homes, QC. Reception will follow at the Grand Terrace dining Commonwealth Avenue. The wedding gown was designed by Dennis C. Aguilar and features Aguilar's La Inculpable Master Couture.

RUBAN-LEE

Lawyer Henry S. Ruban Jr., editor son of Albay Chamber of Commerce and Industry president and historian says district prosecutor Henry Ruban of Legazpi City and Rosalita Avenancio of Naga City, will exchange marriage vows with Jeanne Marie Lee, daughter of Atty. (deceased) and Josephine Jose Gonzalez Lee, on June 10, 4:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Assumption Basilica Minore, Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Naga, Camarines Sur.

The bride will wear a Vera-inspired lace basic Thai silk and taffeta gown accentuated with swarovski pearls and vintage crystal brooches, a creation of Jeffersons, Greenhills. The reception will be at the bride's residence.

Popular wedding venue opens Alabang branch

FERNWOOD GARDENS IN Project 6, Quezon City has become a favorite venue for weddings.

The former ancestral home of the De Veyras has a beautiful garden in a sprawling two-hectare property.

Al de Veyra, the only one of four siblings who remained in the country, cares for and maintains the gardens that his mother loved so much, including waterfalls, fountains, ponds with ducks, swans and koi.

During those months of intense heat and humidity and to prepare for the rains in June and July, De Veyra said he had shelters built over the gardens. Clients can choose between an all-natural ambience or air-conditioned setting.

De Veyra also built a chapel for Catholic weddings while the garden bars become venues for ecumenical, Muslim and other denominational weddings.

Now, after operating successfully for six years in Quezon City, Fernwood has opened a branch in Alabang, close to the high-end village of Ayala Alabang in Las Piñas, Fernbrook Gardens.

Intended to be the resort scene south of Metro Manila, Fernbrook Gardens Alabang is a well-planned 1ers-hectare property developed at close to a P1.00 million.

At Fernbrook, couples can choose from any of the reception halls with domed roofs that are Moorish- or Roman-inspired.

Fernbrook's mini basilica is atop a hill. Newlyweds can ease, by car, to the reception venue aboard a Victorian-inspired horse-drawn carriage; a vintage Rolls-Royce or Bentley car; or a gondola like they have in Venice, passing under bridges.

Fernbrook Gardens and Restaurant Gardens are major sponsors of The Philippine Wedding Summit 2007, June 2-3, at the SMC Tent, San Fernando Global City.

The two wedding venues will showcase a lush tropical garden at the SMC Tent, giving the public a preview of what to expect when Fernbrook in Alabang opens in December.

The setup will come complete with colorful macaws, parrots, ravens and waterfalls. Soon-to-be-wed's get free photo sessions and show courtesy of top wedding photographers.

The Philippine Wedding Summit 2007 is organized by Thrower & Month. Call 37 19765 or visit www.throwermonth.com.

The two-day event will showcase over 140 suppliers of wedding essentials. It will also feature free cutout enhancement seminars by wedding suppliers by experts in various fields including Bruno Salud, fashion designer; Nina Hirit, weddings and social events management; Boris Medina, president of Wedding & Portrait Photographers of the Philippines, photographic lecturer; Melanie of Tenderness, wedding stylist; Tony Rodriguez, floral arrangement; Robert Manuntag, event styling, etc.

Seats are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Philippine Wedding Summit 2007 also offers discounts and product samples. Beauty salon, with an all-expenses paid honeymoon trip as grand prize for those who still book on site will be held.

The event is supported by the Department of Tourism. Admission for pre-registered guests is free.

CHAPEL for Catholic weddings

THE FORMER ancestral home of the De Veyras is now a popular wedding venue.

FLOWER girls can ride in the reception venue aboard a Victorian-inspired horse-drawn carriage.

A GARDEN features a pond with ducks, swans and koi.

FREDERICK Peralta recently staged a one-man bridal show at The Grand Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. It was a celebration of the language and inspiration, romance and fantasy—all translated using the most luxurious bridal fabrics, from delicate Belgian laces, elaborately embroidered silk taffeta, ornate Dupioni, Duchess and Dikoda silk, crisp silk organdy and bridge and ethereal tulle. The 23-piece collection, being on sale on all beautiful brides, were made even more dreamy on the ramp by top model and beauty queen Miriam Quiambao. The show was directed by Cato Figueroa.

Grand breakfast tasting

FOURTEEN CULINARY EXPERTS recently showcased their food concoctions at 1 Esplanade. Rodolfo Cuenco, Bistro Pan Catering, Hoquenco Catering, Henry's Catering Services, Glenn's Catering, Amabels Catering Inc., Juan Carlo the Caterer, Manila Catering Services, Tatuyo's Catering, The Plaza and 10 &F Classic Food International presented their version of breakfast buffet in consideration with 1 Esplanade's park open premise.

Apart from food samples, the event featured a live mannequin show of wedding attires created by Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers members Fred Escapol, Ezri Legada, Jun Pimentel, Mario Javier, Nicky Martinez and Neo Reyes, and musical performances by Sermana Scungi and singer Franco Belin.

SAMPLE table setup by Henry's Catering Services.

WINELIP Chang-wim Kee and Karl Hedren, Mariner's Gth

ANGIE Martinez and Marguerite Lindiker

THE WINE Shop's Gabby Palmer and Jesse Sala

MICHEL and Jacqueline Lindiker

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Knights and ladies of gourmet dining

MICHEL LINDILLER HENCH LA Chaine des Rotisseurs in the entire Philippines and his beautiful wife Jacqueline Gaisano heads the Cebu chapter. It is a unique dramaton for this highly esteemed international gourmet organization.

As the cliché goes, they make beautiful music together, and more. They have lately been presiding over gastronomic events of the first nature. A recent and most memorable one was the formal 14th induction gala held in the ballroom of the Cebu Marriott Hotel.

In full force were La Chaine's top officers in Cebu aside from amperito, Eleonor Bonyuk, Teresito Mendoreza, Lilia Erdoza, Jeanne Abrams and Al Evangelio.

Michel L, with a gleaming silver mount, dubbed the new knights and ladies of La Chaine in Cebu: Sidney Chuaycoconi, Mo. Carla del Prado, Tessie Javier, Bonny Lopez, Angie Bfonfiera, Marie Jeanne Abaca, Leslie Tupendoza, Mariquita Yeung, James Demeree, Michael Llodlaw, Michael Josardan, Guido Poppe, Eddie Kong, Robert Go, Robert Olivar, Corinne Joseph, Richard Simonson, Peter Hgh Pedersen, and Cebu City Councilor Raul Alcaraz.

HONEY Lusp, Ingrid Sala Sumaoang and Teresito Mendoreza

Moving on

Congratulated for various reasons were Cebu Marriott's 228 Karl Hedrenn and his lovely wife Rose. First of all, for the well-planned event, then for their baby due in September; and finally for Karl's promotion, as he moves to another Marriott property this time on Guiman Island, regarded as the Boracay of Cebu.

The memorable party started with a champagne reception at the hotel's foyer which gave a good view of guests as they arrived for what seemed like a Hollywood red carpet affair.

That was quite a parade of ladies in shimmering gowns and dazzling jewels. The gents were either wing barongs or black ties and tuxedos.

Almost 100 attended, regally seated in a ballroom draped in red silk. On tables covered with crimson satin glowed hundreds of candles.

Beautiful music was played throughout the evening. Ingrid Sala Sumaoang, who was present...couldn't have been prouder.

The string quartet from the Penn Philharmonic was on a mixed date and performed a repertoire of classic and popular music that every once and then made Jimi's way to Swiss. The main portion "Serenade" by Haydn from national epithets.

The menu was excellent...salad with ocean trout and lobster, hummus consommé, mini apple with foie gras, orange blossom sorbet, and grilled Wagyu sirloin that melted in the mouth.

The best New Zealand wines were poured, and quite generously too.

VIVIAN Tradanas, Al Evangelio, Tessie Javier

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

After 20 years, husband wants out

DEAR EMILY,

I have been married for 20 years and haven't had any kids.

A year ago, my husband suddenly told me he did not love me anymore. He said he was not physically and sexually attracted to me and he wanted space.

I've always trusted him and I did not see this coming. I then started to investigate and, sure enough, I caught him calling another woman.

I accept that all this is not his fault. I have my faults, too. I tried to fix our marriage but he was not willing to work things out.

He is basically a good person and, though I still love him, I suffered from the thought that he wasn't happy with our marriage.

A month ago, we both decided it would be best if he just left and got a room of his own.

My problem is he still comes to the house and visits me on my place of work (we work in the same company) almost every day.

Since he still owns part of our house, he is welcome to come and go. He fixes things around the house and still helps me with the cleaning.

I started accepting boarders because I couldn't afford the mortgage and maintenance. I have also gotten myself a second job to keep me busy.

How can I move on?

DESPERATE LADY

You cannot move on because this wonderful husband of yours also cannot make up his mind about what he wants to do with his life.

He may not be happy with you anymore but the house that he built seems to be valuable for him to drop like a hot potato, as he did you.

Since you both did not make much song and dance about your deteriorating relationship, you yourself are subconsciously setting for him to make the first move to make the final break. It has become a game of "wait and see" for the two of you, has it not?

Be the "decider" then and kick him out of your life. Make him realize that the momentary thrill of having a girlfriend will eventually result in boredom once the novelty of that relationship fades.

Marriage is eating and laughing and waking up and sleeping and eating and laughing and getting annoyed and happy and being sick, and really just getting by in life—sharing day in and day out the good, the bad and the ugly.

If he has gotten bored with you, as he says, and hungers for excitement after 20 long years of marriage to you, tell him then to join the circus and be a fire-eater.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Ayhayds, or send your letters to Inquirer Letters to Mi. Marcelo at: And the program "Radiomar Ugdaris," 7:35-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, at dwBR 104.3 FM.

PUREST PERSONAL
Josephine Derong

436-year-old devotion to Manila's patroness

THE DEVOTION TO SOLEDTAD Señora de Guia, patroness of Manila, is 436 years old, dating back to May 15, 1571, when a Spanish soldier found natives worshipping a beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary on top of a tomb surrounded by potted leaves.

Pedro Diaz, citing according to Anales de la Cathedral de Manila, the Virgen de Guia began to shed rays of charity to the people, especially to sailors on galleons going to Acapulco, Mexico, and back to Manila.

It is said ships waylaid out for the light from the lighthouse of the old church on the same spot where the present church stands.

It is believed the image was brought to the Philippines when Magellan landed in Mactan in 1521. Later, a Cebu chieftain gave the statue to a rajah in Manila.

In a royal decree in 1596, the king of Spain declared Nuestra Señora de Guia patroness of Manila because the people experienced many miracles through her intercession.

Two Popes have visited the Virgin in Intramuros. Pope Paul VI canonically crowned her. Pope John Paul II came in 1981 when he beatified Lorenzo de Manila as the first Filipino saint.

When Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales attended the Consistory of Cardinals in Rome, Tony Advincula hand-carried a small replica of the Virgin to Rome.

Filipino-CHWs filled the basilica of St. Mary Major for the Mass said by new Cardinal Rosales with the image on the altar.

Fiesta 2007

This year, many devotees crowded Ermita Church, now Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia, Manila auxiliary Bishop Bernardino Cortez officiated at the concelebrated Mass with 26 priests and General Almoner Bishop Tony Peleng and Fr. Lenny de Claro, rector and parish priest.

Father Lenny, who dreamt of serving the Virgin since he was a young priest, was installed here three years ago.

This year's hermano mayor, Allan Bragoli's family has always been devoted to the Virgin. Bragoli Tingco, his grandmother, set up her business on UN Avenue, formerly Isaac Peral.

Allan said the Virgin had blessed the family business all these years.

This year's sponsors for the fiesta Mayo is Allan's cousin Ms. Milagros Griselda Villangca Rodriguez, 22, daughter of Marilou and Danilo Rodriguez, brother of Allan's mother Arsenia Bragoli.

Tony Advincula, president of the Ermita Church pastoral council, remembers his mother Beatriz Jovilla, de Advincula seeing the dedicated him to the Virgin when he was still in her womb.

As a grade schooler, Tony was an altar boy in the church. The advincula-Lumbao clan was on A. Mabini Street then. Today, Tony serves as mayordomo of the Virgin.

Devotees call her "Mama Guia." I prayed to her in 1992 to seek her help in getting a United States visa, promising to walk in her procession. I got a 13-year visa.

Corpus Christi

The Holy Names and the Eucharistic Adorers League will hold a nine-day Novena of Masses June 1-9, 5:30 p.m., at St. Joseph Convent on 71 M. Roxas St., New Manila, to celebrate Corpus Christi.

Different priests will speak on the theme "Feast of Life." Celebrants are Bishop Gabriel Reyes, June 1; Fr. Alexander Balidoy, June 2; Msgr. Conor Ingoleson, June 3; Fr. Albert Feldner, June 4; Fr. Wilson Cotiacto, 5th, June 5; Fr. Eduardo Gomez, June 6; Fr. Santy de Claro, June 7; Fr. Ogie Ordoño, June 8, and Fr. Apolinario Ty, SSS, June 9.

Cubao Bishop Honorio Ongtioco will say Mass at 9:30 p.m., June 10, feast day a procession of the Blessed Sacrament inside the convent grounds follows.

Mona Lacandula, president of the Eucharistic Adorers League, and Teresa Chan, chair of Corpus Christi 2007, hosted the game points.

New saints

Benedict XVI will canonize three priests and a nun on June 3. Pietro Bonilli, Dutch, of the Congregation of the Basilica; and Maria Eugenia Milleret de Brou (1817-1898), French, founder of the Institute of Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

Interesting to note was a female in the Philippines like the Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

HERNANDO Mayor 2007 Allan Tingco (left) with Fr. Zenni Maralit; Hermanos 2007 Drs. Fe and Jun Pellazar and Tony Advincula

CAPTAINS of the Ermita Church fiesta Ms. Milagros Griselda Rodriguez with Tingco

Chapel needed

The St. Bed Seminary in Silang, Cavite, is the formation house of aspirants of the Society of the Word. Since it was built, seminarians have used the rosary on the third floor for their Eucharistic celebration and adoration.

But the rosary can no longer hold the steadily increasing number of seminarians. Hence, the need for a separate chapel.

Those who want to help can contact Fr. Armand A. Tangi, (02) 8950701 (mobile) or 8950305 during office hours. You can also send a check payable to St. Bed Seminary Foundation, 7708 St. Bed Road, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Thank you for your kindness.

Day of prayer

May 31 will be a Day of Prayer for Our Lady of All Nations at the chapel of the Holy Family in Vista Mulia, Greenhills. Rosary begins 6:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:30 p.m. Eucharistic adoration with prayer for healing will be at 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Feast day

Devotees of Hagia de las Benedictines, patroness of Hungarys, celebrated her feast day May 19 in her church in Barrio Obrero, San Fernando. Fr. Hie Miranda, parish priest, welcomed pilgrims who attended Masses in the newly renovated church.

The miraculous icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be brought by missionary couple Ed and Cory Salgado to Christ the King Church in Green Meadows for the 4 p.m. Mass on June 3.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edited by Dennis G. Velarde

INSIDE
- Advice for Mega, ABC 5, Regine Viewfinder/ G2
- Top of the tabloids Rushes/ G2

It's their time to shine

'Shall We Dance' winners have been picked by a jury that included their peers

By Mabel R. Cruz

DANCE PARTNERS Benny Weyanuck and Reyna Valle Tadeo, winners of the fifth season of "Shall We Dance: It's Your Time to Shine," were by a very slim margin on Rivals night last Wednesday.

The scores were determined not through text votes, as in previous seasons, but by a three-member jury and entertainment columnists (nearly out in the competition).

Judges Audie Gemora, Regine Velasquez and Rhoda Galvez each handed down 1% percent of the winners' total scores; calls to contestants provided the remaining 25 percent.

"This way, the show will be less predictable," explained Nelson Allen, despite during Season Entertainment's visit to the show's studio in Novaliches, Quezon City.

The winning couple turned some a cash reward of P100,000 and other prizes totaling P150,000. First runners-up were Gerald Pantoja and partner Olivia Cal; second runners-up, Rhoda Cardenas and partner Fred Hidalgo; third runners-up, Dan Ri and partner Jessa Gamboa.

Hosted by Larry Tecson-Gomez, the dance show championship will be aired on Sundays, 8am/ 5:30 on ABC5.

What do you think made your team stand out?

Benny: I think the "dance of choice" portion did it for us. We impressed the judges with our energy and some tricks that we incorporated in our pre number. We did a lot of hands dancing and wedding.

Reynalle: Our pre dance number was very technical. I think that impressed the judges.

What difficulties did you encountered on your way to the finals?

Benny: It was difficult dealing time to rehearse.

There were many talent passion was rewarded. Aside from the competition, Reynalle was

(TO PAGE G2)

WINNING PAIR. Benny Weyanuck and Reynalle Tadeo cut their stuff on the dance floor.

'American Idol' may have passed its peak

MEN AMERICAN IDOL Sanjaya Malakar

NEW YORK—The Sun days may still be ahead for Jordin Sparks, but the same may not be said for "American Idol."

The 30.7 million people (who were had Sparks win Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) was a thing—long term the 30.4 will not who saw Taylor Hicks take the ti- de last year, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Chances are, the 2006 season will remain as the peak for audience interest, ratings to other say. A fall-down pool of contestants, the general malaise among viewers this spring and the simple laws of TV gravity to take its toll.

"People are getting tired of it," said Matt Brennan, an analyst for Media Week Gallup. "Season 1 say."

The first phenomenon was still TV's most popular program on American viewing is not no surprise. A likely will for agents next year.

FOX (30.0/51) is followed against [illegible] (AMERICAN) G2

happy to be ahead!

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Unsolicited advice for Sharon, ABC 5 and Regine

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

WE HEAR THAT SHARON CUNETA IS about to start her new movie after caregiving abroad. We're happy to see that the Megastar has lost some weight in preparation for shooting her new film, but it's more pounds before she will look fit to an extreme.

So, we'd like to offer her the completely unsolicited advice to postpone her shooting schedule for a few more weeks, until she looks really fit.

It's good for stars to remember that TV and movie cameras add 10 pounds to the way they usually look and weigh. So, Sharon should lose more than three pounds of pounds to make up for the inflated illusion of girth.

Some people may point out that Sharon already appears on TV every weekend and all other days, and no loud complaints have been heard about her photogenic ills schtick, however, that the movies are different from television. Or, for TV talk variety shows, Sharon is herself in her interview, she plays a leading lady.

There's something about a film that requires actors to epitomize female allure or male dynamism, and that's a "requirement" that stars should seriously keep in mind and try their best to fulfill—otherwise their movies' unseen flaws could be compromised.

Time for RP "Idol"

We'd also like to urge Channel 5 to get cracking with the second season of "Philippine Idol."

"American Idol" is in its final week, so interest is high.

Therefore, this is the perfect time to generate interest in the 2007 edition of the popular singing tilt—that is, if there will be such a repeat school.

If it does push through, it should be in the next couple of months. And in Inquirer circles' learn from the mistakes they committed during the first season.

A major deficiency was the lack of timely 64 low-through after the finalists and ultimate winner were chosen. As a result, they doled-because stars—which may be gay, since some of them were made of potentially stellar stuff.

Other mistakes are to be repeated: insular the poor showing of some jurors and hosts; deficient production values, less than exciting personalities, and a general failure of the show-off-beat to name little fit outs to taste than a scrapbook copy of the "wannabe" original.

And for Regine...

Our one piece of unsolicited advice is directed at Regine Velasquez. She should really set her age (late 30s?) instead of trying to come across as over-youthful one to looks, attitudes and gesture. Sure, stars should look as fresh and vital as possible to keep their fans interested. It's also true that the local show biz audience is predominately made up of young people, so a mature projection would be the time of death for some performers.

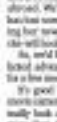
Unfortunately, there's also the law of gravity and diminishing returns to contend with. Nobody can look like a teenager forever, even with the most creative surgical intervention. So, stars shouldn't even try, because the final destination of that route is inevitably humiliation.

So, Regine, you shouldn't open up—with younger actors, because the age differences will invariably show...unless that production's topic is awesomely silly-ally like Mayi Uy's number-1 Mega-October cast.

Finally, we wish that Vilma Santos makes a new movie this year. Yes, she'll be busy busy with her work as the new governor of Batangas, but she should try to act in a new film at least once every two years.

It could even end up helping her currently high-flying political career, especially if she decides to aspire for a national post some years from now.

A fresh series of acting awards would be exactly what she would need to convincingly prove that she's one of the local entertainment world's best thespians—and thus to bring representation and flag bearer to the even more competitive field of public service and politics.



Yenshot C. Xavier
columnist@inquirer.com.ph

We also hope Vilma makes a new movie this year

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE EXORCIST"
Ashley JUDD
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BUG

An 'accidental horror writer'

By Ruth L. Navarro

"SUPERNATURAL" creator Eric Kripke calls himself an accidental horror writer. He was originally a comedy writer, he said, but made a shift when he saw that his series was going nowhere.

"I have always been a fan of horror movies, especially Asian horror movies," he said.

Kripke wrote the haunting "Hungerford"—about a young man traumatized by childhood memories—out of the window, a self-avowed "chick" presented it to producers, who loved it. Next thing Kripke knew, it was being made into a movie.

A couple of years later, he created the television series "Supernatural" starring Jared Padalecki (Sam Winchester) and Jensen Ackles (Dean Winchester). The series is about two brothers who, in search of their missing father, hunt down and kill ghosts and demons.

Each episode is based on urban legends, said Kripke. "But each just make things up. I have a lot of BS cards stocked. We've used eleven (E)."

The first season ended with the boys' father dead. What can the viewers look forward to now?

One major event occurs. One of the Winchesters die and what happens next sets the entire new season in motion.

The characters have acquired more depth. In season one, the characters became repetitive in season 2, we have taken new risks like, the brothers separated and Dean was in purgatory and demons are back but there are new creatures, like zombies and blood thirsty clowns.

What questions will be answered from the previous season? Will we finally know what the demons meant by coming back for Sam and children like him?

We will definitely find out what was planned for Sam. We will know what the demon's motives are.

We will explore the world of other hunters. Some are allies of the boys, some are against the boys. But you can have it without having followed the previous shows.

Will Sam's visions become stronger?

He continues to have visions. He can't control the progress his powers are slowly. He can't tune objects. He can't be Superboy because it wasn't in existing. His visions are always stronger than himself. I wanted him to be clumsy on the edge of death.

Will Dean find a girlfriend? Maybe Sam?

The boys will meet a mother daughter team/duo familiar with what they are doing. The daughter was not out in a potential romance interest for one of the boys but we liked her as a little sister for them to expand their family a little bit.

Sam and Dean virtually live in their '67 Chevy Impala. Where do they get money to spend for their basics?

I get that question all the time. It was mentioned a few throughout the season. They earn their money dishonestly—embezzling small sized companies and winning poker games through cheating. It's the good part, no-hidden actions. They can't afford to have normal jobs. I sort of like that they are outlaws.

The second season of "Supernatural" premieres at ABS on May 29, 10 p.m.

JARED Padalecki and Jensen Ackles are back in the second season of "Supernatural."

TAKE FIVE

'American Idol' . . .

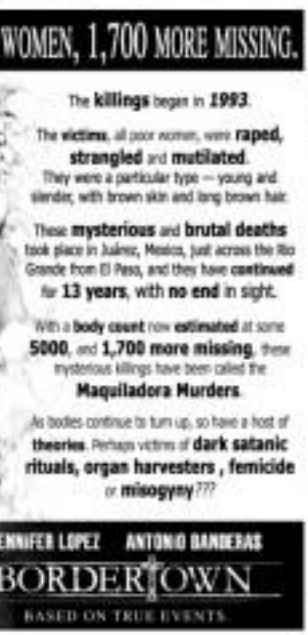
Pressmeet G1

ing "Idol" out. For the season as a whole, "American Idol" ratings will be slightly down or even identical to last year, when Web viewing is taken into account. In addition, viewers are a driver by the personalities involved, and a new cast of characters can rest spring, said Fox's Reilly Enright.

The men's finale compares to the 38.3 million who watched in 2006, and 29.8 million in 2005. The showdown between Clay Aiken and Ruben Studdard in 2003 attracted 38 million viewers, Nielsen said.

For the first half of this season, ratings outstripped 2006. When voice coach Jurnifer Kimpter Hudson was voted off in April, much of the interest left, too.

"The comparison dates to the end didn't have the excitement left years past," said Brooks, author of "The Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable Television." "It's kind of a rehash on viewers." AP



It's their time to shine

From page 30

busy with her military aviation classes. I myself was recording an album with my band, Sept.Awares.

Reynaldo: As the ten-up to the finals, we got really nervous because we couldn't practice with our dancing coach. We had to join a competition abroad and did not get back until two days before the championship. We only had two days to train our give-number.

HEAT Lucy Torres-Gomez

FIRST runner-up Gerald Tyson and Olivia Cui

What made you join the contest?

Reynaldo: That was not my first time to compete. I danced with basketball players first, now Ginalin in this season. But I am backed-out a week into the contest.

Kenny: The opportunity was presented to me by a friend. I was a dancer before I became a model. But I had several Hollywood dancing before. I wanted to do something new, so I joined.

Have you always been into dancing?

Kenny: Yes. I am Tess and Ivonne's nephew. I joined the program for exercise, symphonic and jazz bands in the future. I even took up music in college.

Reynaldo: I've been dancing since I was eight. In 1997, I was grand champ of "Sin Bilog" of SB Ballroom dance company. I'm also a member of the Davaoquet Council of the Philippines. My team competed in Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, China and Chinese Taipei.

What was your first impression of the show? Did it change when you made it to the championships?

Kenny: I didn't think of it as a competition. Each week I looked it as a dance. If you wanted it a competition, you get stressed and start hating another with the other dancers.

Reynaldo: I saw all competitions seriously, I always give my best. Every week I had two days to train our give-number.

SECOND runner-up Kevin Cordova and Paul Munar

THIRD runner-up Glen Ty and Perrie Cordero

JUDGES Edsel Ledesma, Audie Gemora and Regine Tolentino

ENTERTAINMENT

BILLY Bush of Access Hollywood covering Cannes Film Festival

CHINESE actress Bai Ling

JOSH Brolin and Diane Lane

ANDY MCDOWELL

Who will win Cannes' top prize?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahoul V. Sepulveda

CANNES, France... Who will win Cannes' top prize, Palme d'Or, as the festival wraps up today, Sunday?

As we write this, the best seem to be on either the Coen brothers' "No Country for Old Men" (USA) or Cristian Mungiu's abortion drama, "4 months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" (Romania). The award-watching debate, which was in full of this sport can be overwhelming.

But Cannes festival juries are known to spring surprises among the other contenders are David Fincher's "Zodiac," Gus Van Zant's "Paranoid Park," Lee Chang-dong's "Secret Sunshine," Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis," Wong Kar-Wai's "My Blueberry Nights," Carlos Reygadas' "Silent Light," Bella Tarr's "The Man From London," Christian Mungiu's "Love Songs," Quentin Tarantino's "Death Proof," Julian Schnabel's "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," Ulrich Seidl's "Import Export," Fatih Akin's "The Edge of Heaven" and Andrei Zvyagintsev's "The Banishment."

The Philippines' "Kubot: Child," directed by Rolfmarc "Dante" Mendiola, is entered in the Directors' Fortnight, a prestigious non-competition, sidebar section of the

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TILDA Cobham-Hervey, above, and Mimosa Driver, right, at the red carpet in Cannes

ELIZABETH HURLEY

Iza: It's not about making 'pa-kilig' with Robin

By Boy-el San Diego Jr.

AS AN ACTRESS, SHE DOESN'T RUN SHY.

Iza Calzado won eight acting roles she lost (accepted two without role) to Ara Mina's controversy psychological thriller "Blackout"—her fourth dark movie in a row, after Star Cinema's "Segurista," Topel Lee's "Feast" episode in "Shake, Rattle & Roll 8" and Lee's "Outside."

When the Rated producers wanted sizzling hot Iza Calzado to sign to her next movie—sweeping up the GMA-7 license on her "Encantadia" and promoting the GMA Films romance "Moments of Love."

Still, she fought for Star Cinema's movie.

Star cool Johnson Lapuz (Lyle Sarile's eldest son on the set of "Encantadia") tells us more about sex characters and the story," she replied.

That sealed the deal.

Moreover, Star Cinema mentioned to Calzado that the lead within the script (with frequent collaborator Maryo J. de los Reyes) with her in mind for the role of the mysterious mother (she lives next door to Diether's character).

Star Cinema mentioned Calzado from the start. "She looks like Rhian Ramos and shows great promise as an actress. Even though she had a very busy schedule, she found time for us.... I'm very grateful," said Star Cinema.

Instead of the original two-day shooting schedule, Star Cinema and Calzado adjusted

Drama actress says she's tired of doing 'goody-goody' roles, wants a change

and made it possible to shoot in two days.

"The second day lasted from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. the following day, though. And I had to rush to a 'Moments of Love' mall show right after," she recounted.

She had no complaints, however, because, after seeing the rushes, she realized "It was worth it."

Joining with Rufflo was another compelling reason to accept "Blackout."

First pairing

"It's my first time to work with him," she related. "It's interesting that, in this movie, we are cast as lovers/exes. We ran out planning a couple. It's not about 'rushing good together and being romantic.'

"Rufflo good was not to make the audience feel 'Uh, Uh-Huh,' she asserted.

"It was all about the script and acting," she explained.

She was impressed with Rufflo's more her studies in this movie.

"He really immersed himself in the role," she recalled. "He lived in that apartment [the master's bedroom] before the start of shooting. He looks completely different. It's not Dr. Neal Rufflo Ruiz we see on television."

Calzado, for her part, also experimented in "Blackout."

She sees Rufflo's movie, which opens in theaters on June 13, as a much-needed break from routine. "I was doing a lot of goody-goody roles that sound I wanted something different."

In Ellen Pilosa "Outja," which opens in July, she tackled yet another creepy role.

Rn, she didn't think she was getting typecast in thrillers because she made it a point to make each character that she's ever played.

On the small screen, she returns to drama on the GMA-7 primetime soap "Impostora" which reunites her with Sunshine Dizon, under the direction of Maryo J. de los Reyes.

"Sunshine is a very generous actress. She has always helped me from the start," Calzado said.

"There've been teamed up in two previous projects—the drama 'Kung Maaalala Ko' and the telefantasya 'Encantadia.'

"I think we're lucky as a team," she exclaimed.

A day before the "Impostora" pictorial, Calzado, Dizon and their "Encantadia" co-stars Karylle and Glaiza Jadaqui had a reunion. "We went reading and had our nails done at a salon. We had fun," Calzado said.

TEAM Rabia is one of the participant of the Fearless Brotherhood Challenge in ASAP.

All-male drama, action in new TV reality show

By Oliver M. Palanduzi
Contributor

GET BONDING IS ESSENTIAL FOR COMpeting four-man teams in the new "Fearless Brotherhood Challenge," a 10-episode show airing on ABS-CBN's Fox Four duo, starting tonight at 6.

Test of bonds

Although partly inspired by multi-challenge reality game shows like "The Amazing Race," the new series to be hosted by Paolo Bedesmen contains stuffs a differ from it will feature an all-male lineup, to watch the future brand's "brotherhood" show.

The competition brings together real life friends whose bonds will be tested in various physical and mental challenges.

"It's entertaining," Kristine Hermosa, master hosting the series of 30 minutes Philippines Face Winner Is Sparkle, said during the programmatic. "We were looking for teams to communicate. Fraternity's synonym of brotherhood, about the heritage, the authenticity of the bond. The participant came up with their contacts—a TV series that we could bring those virtues in life. It's a little bit more interactive than, say your basic TV ad campaign. The great thing is, the guys experiencing the travel in the TV show real. It do do virtues good. It's also a local production with all Filipinos well and talents."

Proof of friendship

According to Gelper Agcaoili, country director of Room Global Sports and Mixes, a lot of potential participants logged on to the ABS website, where they submitted their profiles. "We conducted a series of interviews—we needed to see if they're really friends. In the future, maybe we'll have to make connections. Right now, friendly is mostly a male ditch. If this is successful, we plan to continue with it, probably expand it to some area. The show also has a testing component where you can vote in to win, even if you don't participate in the actual show, where the bets are not just physical. There are recreational tests, too about values that true friends have. You'll see the friendship and infighting!"

The production company that has done the show for us previously did Amazing Race in Asia," Hermosa added. "They know what they're doing in terms of bringing all this together. There will be some very dramatic twists and turns. The winners will win a trip to Accra, Spain, where they'll visit the fitness of Fundador. It's the trip of a lifetime, with VIP treatment. They'll visit the distillery."

Ecstatic host

Paolo Bedesmen is ecstatic about the new hosting gig. "There are comparisons with Amazing Challenge,' the show I used to host on GMA. That's one of the reasons I accepted the job. I missed doing that. I miss being outdoors. I miss interacting people and trying out the challenges myself. To have some of my old stuff on it cross with me watching on this project, it feels like home. Kids may have more fun. Also, it's going to be shown at ASAP, and that's another reason why I accepted. To have that kind of exposure, at least in the region, that's something that makes me real excited."

Fighting spirit

The contestants are "very enthusiastic." Bedesmen noted. "It is the obstacles—their fighting spirit. The way the challenges were designed, there are games of chance, skill, strength, and decision-making. So it doesn't matter if you're a workout warrior or really an enthusiast or a couch potato, this host a chance. When you have the formula, anything's possible. I think that by the time we're done with this, people will see and feel the kind of drama that new age hosts. Usually in adventure/race or reality shows, there's always the female component. The major challenge here is to make it interesting despite the fact that you have an all-male cast. The intrigue, the drama will definitely be there."

Top of the tabloids: Ruffa, Regine, Nora

THE TOP SHOWBIZ STORIES IN LOcal tabloids this week (and why we are second, if not unrelated):

•How true? Ruffa Gutierrez is dating BF Jet Lee? Hope? Diana Lorenzana tells Ruffa's mom Annabelle Rama's weekend show at Eraserhead?

•Ruffa, nagpakasal na ulong lalaki sa Ulo!

(Ruffa is quoted as saying, "I can't tell the future names, but in my view, we have a good relationship talking about the kids and husband and maybe marriage." Is this the same woman who told Boy Abunda only last week, "Mind de ko nadyan?")

•Annabelle, nakakasama ng-i si Ruffa sa pagiti-inthe.

•Eddie Gutierrez (Ruffa's dad), nag- pananahigh-h (implied si- zeal).

•Eddie in casual conversations: Ruffa Mozar breakup. (Brgy. Richard and Raymond.)

•Then-jowl Ruffa to-day on "The Buzz." (Ate Vilma? Imitable?) Bob Arguelles?)

•Vilmore, mukhang-galit ka- kay Ruffa si Tito Sir Boy Abunda—sa-Gerald interview of what on "The Buzz"? Huh.)

•Opo, umakyat ang-nanoon-jowol (Press people quoted saying:) 11 "May pa-nakakaw-nakakatuwa pa- nyang relationship, samantalang kay Lani's mula noong magsimula siya ay sinasaway na ng-anyari niya." 2) "Doon sa lang ayos magpamalas' mula ngayon!" (This is all because Star Allroad closed to appearance her restaurant with Regine Velasquez in a magazine reclusion. Now it the time to announce an Opin Region interim. Quick.)

•Dyan Pinoy(e) nilalabi ay kapag

NORA AUNOR

OCAE Aunor and Regine Velasquez

RUSHES

sa Opin. Dyan inking the movie pinoy?)

•Regine, type magka-other kay Pedo. (Teacher, volunteers.)

•Regine ready for motherhood. (Hihi. Hihi...)

•Regine, excited dito sa-Bonbong si Opin. (Ay, di po siyo-dito?)

•Andoy, cause pagpasok sa pagbabalik-sina Pedro of Byron. (Confused, relationship?)

•Sinundo sina Pedo at Regine simple lang. (Sinundo kayo pala.)

•Bad baby party si Juan, tinusok si Pedo.

•Andoy, kapang pagsabay's ang-ay-ano at Adad's.

•Hindi Bayan, stop muna si Juan.

•Vilma Santos nangpa para kay Juan Aunor.

•Kasi ito kasi, Kasi's sinul, sinundo si Anthony pagpapakasal ni Ate Guy. (Isa to sponsor si-aning. •Hiking kumalang tatayo 'nan. Anong-anak. Hindi ko nang babay niya si Bonbon. She's happy-ay nemaker pa rin.)" But did she-di didn't she?)

•Ikawan Opposite Angel Locsin ako! affair ba to. Out the dress's have time for her co. Dyo Bay tonite. di ba?)

•Angelica [Panganiban] spoke ni mga pangit!

•Dawn, napanood ng Ellen, bastat ka Francine Prieto. (Again?)

"Oscars'" facial-raising

CANNES, France—George Clooney, Brad Pitt, and other members of the all-star caper "Ocean's Thirteen" made all trolls endless ahead of the movie's red-carpet premiere Thursday.

The A-list set raised $9.2 million at an exclusive charity bash on a patio for fashions sponsored by the design conflict in Darfur.

It was "money for something we thought was important," Clooney told reporters. AFP

Angelina's goal

NEW YORK — Angelina Jolie says she has entered a new stage in her life now, being her mother, actress Mackenzie Bertrand, in concert ended this year.

"I want to be a great mom like my mom was and I want to take do the things that I love," the 31-year-old actress said to an interview that aired Wednesday on BBC's "Today" show.

Touting as, Jolie added "But I'm holding on to my family really tight to this moment because of that and trying to be—to be as good a woman as I can be in my life." AP

Another custody feud

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Anne Heche wants sole custody of her 3-year-old son, ending her estranged husband in a fat video to trying to protect his ex-a bad mother.

In a Superior Court declaration filed Monday, Heche said that when their son stayed with Edelman last June in Los Angeles, he sends the boy to unsidered or leaves him with caregivers and babysitters while he "plays ping-pong, backgammon and poker and views pornography online." AP

RUFFA Gutierrez with daughters Venice, L. and Lorin

BRAD Pitt and George Clooney, "Ocean's Thirteen" stars

DID YOU KNOW...

Rock stars, guitar legends

WHAT DO JOEY "JET" SETTE CHEECHTURA AND JUR LORTO HAVE IN COMMON?

Aside from being Pinoys rockers in Chi "Th. Boy's re-lovell "old" band mates—with Hope and Ace jamming in Ace's studio and the Apostrophes and Ace and Chino playing in The Jocks.

The Boys won't allow the Ace in. "Pinoy Indie Legends," a mini-concert staged Wednesday at the Ace inn of Gil Hopewell.

Incorrect factual statement was there. The full story is somewhere's time.

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1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 - THE
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
8 InBetWeen: BALIW
9 WHISPER
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3

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2 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 FRACTURE
WHISPER
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
6 SHREK 3
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

METRO EAST

1 SHREK 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 FRACTURE
WHISPER
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
8 MESSAGE from HEAVEN

NOVALICHES

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
6 SHREK 3

PIONEER

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3

STA. ROSA

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

LIPA

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

DASMARINAS

1 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK

ANGELES

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

IMUS

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 LUCKY YOU
6 SHREK 3

STARMILLS

1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 LUCKY YOU
5 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

BACOLOD

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 RESERVE
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SUNSHINE

ILOILO

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 SUNSHINE
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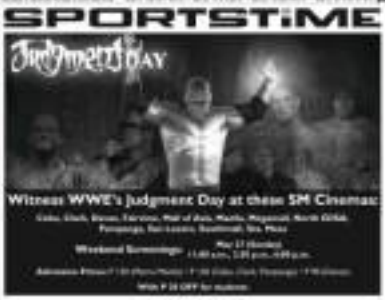

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IMAX

Who will win ...

Turn to page A1

Cannes film fest. As we turn our last Friday, Angelina ... folks would have seen the best actress but her film, "A Mighty Heart," was screened out of competition.

Applause

We did see "No Country for Old Men," which is poised a multi-award-winning season at the end of its path screening. Like "A Mighty Heart," it is a film adaptation of a best-novel of the same title by Cormac McCarthy. The film's story, lyrically told in a series of over drips and cuts, is told by Joel and Ethan Coen in a tenacity to excellence winning to their recent films.

Topnotch acting by the cast, especially Javier Bardem as a chillingly humorless killer who will kill anything, anyone; Josh Brolin, whose character's life is forever spoiled when he comes across a violent scene; and Tommy Lee Jones, as a philosophically dueling with the changing times should make this film a serious contender some awards season time.

Cannes virgin

Josh Brolin, a Cannes virgin like us, should finally get some major critical attention with his performances. We chanced upon Josh on the terrace of a penthouse suite at the Carlton hotel as he took a brief break from the interviews for our holding of day. The surprise of Barbra Streisand fan Dallas, actor James Brolin, is married to the ex-pecular daughter Josh or he hasn't had time yet to ask in the Coens expect, ever since he just arrived the previous day and did press interviews right away.

On the red carpet of the film's gala screening later that day Javier and Josh were like playful boys—taking each other's pictures and humming it up—a complete opposite of the deadly silent screen they play in "No Country ..."

Post-screening

However, a couple of hours later, amid the standing ovation and prolonged standing ovation for the film, Josh was misty-eyed as he stood with his wife, lovely and talented actress Diane Lane. We walked to an intimate post-screening party with the cast at Image Hilton's fantabulous restaurant, La Plage. We congratulated Javier, Josh and the Coen brothers for an outstanding film, in keeping with the film's setting, were on style hats hung on each chair in the table reserved for the cast, directors and executives.

E-mail the columnist at ... or ... and read his blog, "The Angeles Report," on www.inquirer.net/columnists/angeles.

Posible kayang matagpuan mo ang iyong one great love... twice?

Which Star Are You From?

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23 BARKADA mo!

McDonald's heralds new Kiddie Crew graduates

McDonald's caps the hectic summer with a grand celebration honoring smart and active kids. More than 11,000 kids convened at the Alive Theater in Pasay, and simultaneously in Cebu and Davao, last May 19 and 20 to be officially sworn in as members of the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop.

The venue was jam-packed with excited kids and parents from morning till afternoon for the round of Kiddie Crew commencement exercises. Despite the summer heat, the air was festive as everybody enjoyed the tons of freebies like food, toys and school goodies from McDonald's.

Of course, no Kiddie Crew graduation would be complete without the kids' beatfriend, Ronald McDonald. He guided them in taking their Kiddie Crew Oath where the young graduates pledged to be happy, respectful and obedient children.

The parents present couldn't be more pleased with their children's Kiddie Crew experience at McDonald's.

Started in 2004, the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop held every summer engages kids age 6-12 years old to come learn more about their favorite McDonald's restaurant. They are kept happily busy with different kid-friendly programs designed to develop their personalities, improve their interaction and communication skills, and help them become more conscious and inquisitive of their surroundings.

Through the McDonald's Kiddie Crew Workshop, these kids learn about responsibility especially in a place of business. They sharpen their people skills by interacting with people of different ages. They also take away values like cleanliness, courtesy, patience and friendliness from their experience working and having fun at McDonald's.

McDonald's advocates helping children around the world lead happy and active lives. Through the years, McDonald's has supported kids' active lifestyle through its Kids On The Go program, with its flagship program, Kiddie Crew Workshop and has recently owned the world's most popular sport, soccer.

Kids learn the discipline and all the rules they have fun during their workshop.

More kids during the McDonald's Kiddie Crew celebration in Davao Region.

Ronald and the gang perform during the graduation ceremony.

The Kiddie Crew Oath where the young graduates pledged to be happy, respectful and obedient children.

Nicole Andrea of Super Twins shows a moment with Birdie.

Backstage video from fans autodrags and stars in Star City.

Love ko 'to